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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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CONTENTS

COUNTRY SECTION

ARGENTINA

Lacroze Predicts Drop In Wheat Sales to USSR (CONVICCION, 28 Oct 81).....	1
State Interventionism Cited in Grain Board Decision (Luis Domenianni; CONVICCION, 29 Oct 81).....	3
Economic Program Criticized, Recommendations Outlined (Antonio R. Lanusse; A FONDO, Oct 81).....	5
Refinancing Bond Decree Explained (LA NACION, 4 Nov 81).....	11

CUBA

Communique Issed at End of Carrillo's Visit (GRANMA, 24 Nov 81).....	12
CTC's Veiga Reports on Labor Activities (Roberto Veiga; TRABAJADORES, 4, 5, 6 Nov 81).....	13
Carlos Rafael Rodriguez on Cancun, Africa, Other Issues (Rafael Rodriguez Interview; EL DIARIO DE CARACAS, 29 Oct 81).....	32
Various Cooperation Agreements Described (GRANMA, 7, 11 Nov 81).....	39
Finnish Trade	
Guinea-Bissau Friendship	
Caribbean Aid	

Reportage on Minrex' Alarcon's West Indies Tour (GRANMA, 18, 21 Nov 81).....	41
Visit to Grenada, by Alexis Shelton Results of Tour	
Reportage on Naval Academy Engineering Students (Jorge Julio Gonzalez; MAR Y PESCA, Sep 81).....	43
Farm Sector Tobacco Campaign Explained (Gonzalez Govin; GRANMA, 23 Nov 81).....	48
Need for Increased Grinding Efficiency Noted (Juan Varela Perez; GRANMA, 1 Dec 81).....	50
Otero, Cardenas Honored by Mexican Magazine (Jorge Timosi; GRANMA, 20 Nov 81).....	52
Rat Control Program Under Way in Urban Areas (Jose A. de la Osa; GRANMA, 5 Nov 81).....	53
Briefs Poultry Production Increase	54
NICARAGUA	
Junta Coordinator Daniel Ortega Interviewed (Daniel Ortega Interview; IL TEMPO, 7 Dec 81).....	55
State Council Amends Public Security Law (BARRICADA, 20 Nov 81).....	60
New Nationality Law Goes Into Effect 19 November (EL NUEVO DIARIO, 22 Nov 81).....	63

LACROZE PREDICTS DROP IN WHEAT SALES TO USSR

Buenos Aires CONVICCION in Spanish 28 Oct 81 p 15

[Text] The former chairman of the National Grain Board, David Lacroze, has predicted that Argentina will sell a smaller amount of grain to the Soviet Union than last year. He attributed this to competition from the United States, which this year had a "super-abundant harvest," and is offering better prices than Argentina's.

Last year the United States and some other countries placed a grain embargo against the Soviet Union as an expression of condemnation for the USSR's invasion of Afghanistan. Argentina was practically the only country selling grain to the Soviet Union, which meant that its sales were quite large.

That situation is no longer in existence, and Lacroze said that: "I would say that given equal conditions, the Soviet Union would prefer Argentine grain, but the problem is that it is a little more expensive than American grain, so I don't know to what extent the USSR will buy from Argentina."

Lacroze was speaking in Ezeiza, upon his return to Argentina after a trip to the Peoples Republic of China and the Soviet Union. He said that sales to China also "depend on prices."

According to an agreement between the two nations, China can buy between 900,000 and 1,500,000 tons, but Lacroze said that "the Chinese will buy at the same prices, not above, from other markets, and local prices will depend on Russian demand."

The former official, who was chairman of the National Grain Board when Jose Martinez de Hoz was minister of the economy, was asked about the problems the Soviets may be facing with their grain supply.

Lacroze remarked that "to speak of the dimensions of the Soviet problem, we would have to go back 3 years, and say that for 3 consecutive years the USSR has had poor harvests."

"If we add up the differences between consumption and production during these 3 years, we get very high figures; we have to assume that Soviet consumption is on the order of 215 or 220 million tons, and its production in recent years has been between 175 and 185 million tons; considering 1979, 1980, and 1981, this produces a really large shortage that the USSR has had to meet by purchases from other countries."

Lacroze estimated that the USSR's purchases from Argentina "are going to be quite large," but he pointed out that "this year, unlike previous years, competition from the United States will be much stronger."

He insisted that the United States "has a large volume to sell and some undersecretaries of state have already gone in person to offer grain to the Soviets over and above the levels specified in grain agreements."

7679

CSO: 3010/283

STATE INTERVENTIONISM CITED IN GRAIN BOARD DECISION

Buenos Aires CONVICCION in Spanish 29 Oct 81 p 14

[Article by Luis Domenianni]

[Text] The decision by the JNG [National Grain Board] to set a reference price for wheat, and the board's possible entry in the grain market are apparently based on a decision made by the ministry of agriculture to ensure a domestic supply of wheat without having to resort to imports.

The measure aroused a considerable amount of opposition, primarily from some grain-importing companies, which in their arguments pointed out this measure as a resumption of state interventionism in grain purchases after several years of non-intervention.

According to the persons responsible for the measure, this is not interventionism--they continue to describe themselves as anti-statist in philosophy--but they say that the decision is based on the principle of state subsidiarity.

The explanation given is as follows: The drought caused a decline in the next wheat harvest which, though its precise extent can not now be determined, may be in the vicinity of 2 million tons. Therefore, the exportable surplus will be about 1.5 million to 2 million tons, since 5 million tons are needed for our domestic wheat supply.

Precisely to avoid state interventionism, the export registers will be kept open, but if the companies record foreign sales greater than the exportable surplus, the National Grain Board will begin to purchase grain at a price of up to \$225 per ton.

As the international FOB price is now \$180 per ton, exporters will not be able to sell more wheat than the limit set by the exportable balance.

One of the criticisms expressed was that the reference price set by the board operated in practice as a state subsidy to wheat producers. But according to spokesmen from the ministry of agriculture, this argument is not valid. The ministry officials pointed out that if external sales exceed the exportable surplus, the nation will have to begin importing wheat, in which case the FOB price of \$180 in the Gulf of Mexico will amount--including insurance and freight charges--to \$225 CIF in Buenos Aires. So this can not be considered a subsidy.

In summary, this is a political step taken by the staff directed by Jorge Aguado to prevent export maneuvers. Last year the registers had to be closed because three companies recorded 2 million tons of sales in 1 day and left the others out of the deal. It should also prevent deals by importers: the same companies which might export would then be the importers. It offers the producers a better price: the producers form its base of political support, and, perhaps the most important factor, it gave the economic cabinet a breathing space, for many agree there that changes are coming soon. Of course, from the monetary point of view, the decision did not create any smiling faces.

7679

CSO: 3010/283

ECONOMIC PROGRAM CRITICIZED, RECOMMENDATIONS OUTLINED

Buenos Aires A FONDO in Spanish Oct 81 pp 28-30

[Article by Antonio R. Lanusse]

[Text] In order to be able to express an opinion about what general steps the government should take to overcome the crisis which, I believe, is the most serious the nation has ever suffered, I feel it is necessary, first, to make a diagnosis of what has happened and of the present situation.

In March 1976 the nation was on the verge of dissolution and was in the grips of terrorism and subversion, against which not only was the government powerless, but its own party was actually one element responsible for the organization of this guerrilla movement.

Furthermore, along with this state of chaos, the nation's economy had fallen into a critical situation which brought us runaway inflation, very close to a state of hyperinflation and economic disaster.

To deal with this situation, the armed forces took over, in order to save and bring order to the country, acting with the approval of all sensible citizens, even many members of the government party who had reacted against this situation.

The movement which arose in March 1976 was called the National Reorganization Process. This title was suitable for the principles behind the movement and the philosophy which the movement's leaders were determined to apply to guide the nation toward social and economic order so that it could again hold the position it had lost among the world's nations.

I think it is appropriate to list these principles here; to a great extent, they lead to the conclusions which I will reach later. These principles are the following.

- a. To stimulate productivity
- b. To reactivate the production apparatus
- c. To control and decrease the budget deficit
- d. To encourage investment
- e. To reverse the policy of increasing government control
- f. To make public services and state enterprises efficient
- g. To have a realistic agricultural policy
- h. To reactivate public works to the extent possible
- i. To set up an appropriate marketing system
- j. To provide a strong stimulus for traditional and nontraditional exports, without excessive conditions attached
- k. To gradually cool down inflation while at the same time maintaining economic activity
- l. To reorganize the tax structure.

Now, after the space of 5 years, we can make some observations enabling us to reach the conclusions mentioned earlier.

There is no doubt that the campaign against terrorism has been won, and that terrorism has been eliminated as a factor of disruption, even though we still face the criticisms of the international leftist movement; these criticisms are being permitted or encouraged in many cases by governments which we should be able to consider our friends.

In economic affairs, unfortunately, the opposite is true, since the government's program which ended last March brought the nation, through an erroneous implementation of the basic principles of the Process, to a situation similar or even worse than the one we had in March 1976.

I feel that no one had any doubt about the need for an economic expansion, and the measures designed to open up the nation in economic terms were well conceived at the time, as were the plans to normalize the situation of some inefficient industries, and to bring all our industries into a healthy international competition, implemented through changes in our tariff structures. But another factor was added to this modification, a factor that was neither expected nor announced: this was the maintenance of a totally unrealistic exchange policy, which led to the collapse of the industrial system, affecting both efficient and inefficient industries, instead of the expected improvement.

Along with this, the government and its enterprises were not restructured. It is of some interest to point out this aspect of the intervention of the public sector in the Argentine economy. This intervention rose from 28.7 percent in 1970 to 36.3 percent

in 1976, and to 41.7 percent in 1980. To this we can add that the deficit in this year's budget will increase significantly, even though no definite figures are yet available.

The system of funding for state enterprises has also been changed. These enterprises had been supported by funds provided from the national budget. They are now required to use the financial market, both internal and external, to meet their investment needs or to cover budget shortfalls, thus concealing the true deficit in the national budget.

This fact has led to an extraordinary demand for money market funds, and has been one of the causes of the extremely high interest rates we have now.

The distortion in the value of the peso in relation to the dollar has caused an extraordinary rise in spending on tourism abroad and on imports of goods of all sorts, whether they are needed or not. This has cost us several billion dollars. All these factors have brought the nation a negative trade balance and a dilution of its reserves, which had reached the by no means insignificant figure of \$10 billion.

In order to maintain these reserves at a certain level, and because of the need for liquidity in the money market to avoid having to issue money without any backing, foreign currency debts have been encouraged, both in the public and private sectors.

A comparison of the expansion of the money supply in different countries may be of some interest. Between 1976 and 1980, the money supply increased by a factor of 1.2 in the United States, by 1.5 in Great Britain, by 1.3 in France, while in Argentina, it increased by the astounding factor of 96.8.

The exchange policy implemented has also led to an insufficient capital investment in agriculture. While in the beginning, withholding restrictions on exports were eliminated, they were later increased, though disguised through an undervalued currency.

In summary, from the production economy that had been planned, the nation has been turned into a true speculation economy, in which the only winners are those involved in speculation.

Of course this is an artificial situation which could not last forever; sooner or later there had to be a crisis. It came even before the change in administrations last March, with a very smooth and frightening devaluation implemented jointly by the outgoing and incoming administrations. Along with the devaluation came an announcement that this would not change the economic plans at all, and

that the current guidelines would be maintained. Events immediately following confirmed the announcements and warnings made much earlier by various economic sectors of the nation--which had never been heeded--and as a result, the present government authorities have inherited this heavy burden.

These events, which took place during the period of transition from one administration to the next, combined with earlier events, led to a loss of confidence in all sectors of the population. This loss of confidence has itself become a new source of disruption, requiring a number of steps spread out over a period of time, without any definite program. The measures employed have only been taken in response to events, but have not been part of a program designed to initiate action.

As a result, one step that the government should take immediately is to restore this lack of confidence so that the economy in general can get back on the right track in the full and specific knowledge of the goals to be achieved and how they can be achieved.

For this it is imperative to have a coherent and definite economic plan, a plan in which the steps taken in reaction to a particular situation would only form the start of its execution; if not, we will soon need to take other action.

The plan should be in harmony with the basic principles supported by the National Reorganization Process. It should be based on positive action, and measures precise both in form and in time should be adopted, incorporating the so often mentioned principle of subsidiarity. Until present, little has been done over the past 5 long years, in comparison with the size of the "sacred monster" of the innumerable enterprises and organizations still remaining within the state apparatus. If we compare the number of those enterprises which have been restored to the private sector or liquidated with the number of new enterprises, both industrial and financial, which the state has had to absorb in recent years, in many cases through its own fault, the result will certainly be a negative one.

This plan should include the following points, as well as some others:

First and foremost is a step without which any other sacrifices would be useless: inflation must be brought down to reasonable levels; for this it is essential to act with decision and energy to reduce the size of the government, by eliminating from it, either by turning their functions over to the private sector and/or by liquidations, of all enterprises and organizations that do not form part of its "raison d'etre." To do this we will have to overcome

the pro-big government mentality which, after so many years of a pro-government policy, has become established in a number of sectors of the population.

In addition, there should be implemented as soon as possible a single exchange market, announced by the authorities, in order to improve the economy and avoid the transfer of income between different sectors. This will help to produce interest rates that will be within reach of persons who wish to borrow money for productive purposes.

As a means of overcoming the crisis in the external economic sector, we should support all possibilities for the export of our industrial products, as is now being done; but in addition, we should increase our agricultural production to the maximum possible by encouraging an improved use of technology and agricultural chemicals; such support is not provided by today's tax system.

For the same purpose, we should also allow private industry to take part, through risk contracts, in the extraction and transport of oil and gas. This would not only make it possible to completely eliminate our hydrocarbon imports, but would also enable us to export these products on very good terms. In this regard, we must mention that at the present time we are venting or burning 50 percent of the gas that is extracted, and that the private sector has a large stock of equipment that remains idle, equipment that could be used to extract hydrocarbons. In closing, in the hydrocarbons sector we should establish and apply a definite policy on the very important issue of petrochemicals, including the private sector in this activity.

As a means to remedy the serious social problem of unemployment and to promote a general economic recovery, we should plan and put into immediate operation a top-priority infrastructure projects program. This would help the entire economy through its snowballing effects, not only because of the various industries it would involve, but also because it would cover the entire country. We should mention here the huge gaps our country has in communications (it is impossible to have a smooth telephone communication), in energy (we don't have energy cuts because of the current recession), in the road system (the present system is being destroyed because of a lack of adequate maintenance), in sanitation (in 19 districts in greater Buenos Aires 50 percent of the population is without running water, and there is a 70 percent deficit in sewage facilities; based on this, it is easy to deduce the situation of the rest of the country), in housing (despite the enormous housing shortage, there are no plans to promote private investment in housing), in schools, hospitals, ports and elevator facilities, etc.

Argentina can not continue to live in this way any longer. A true recovery will take place when the private productive sector is freed from the too heavy and inefficient state apparatus that absorbs almost half of the national economy. This is dependent on a political decision which is up to the nation's top officials.

7679

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REFINANCING BOND DECREE EXPLAINED

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 4 Nov 81 p 1

[Text] The National Economic-Financial Consolidation Bond was designed essentially to refinance business liabilities for a term of 7 years with a 3-year grace period, through financial institutions included under law 21.526.

Consequently, the Central Bank will grant loans to the financial institutions which choose to participate in the system to refinance the credits they hold, which must be used completely for this purpose. Industries in the private sector which so request may have 50 percent of their debts in pesos refinanced, while firms involved in primary production, construction, electricity, gas, water, and sanitary services, wholesale and retail trade, passenger and freight transport, maritime, river, and air navigation, and port and communications services may have 40 percent of their debts in pesos refinanced.

Businesses which have either been declared legally bankrupt or which are now engaged in bankruptcy proceedings, which are in the process of liquidation, or which have halted their productive activity may not use this refinancing service. Nor will firms be covered which, for the reasons listed above, may be technically expected to be imminently and irreversibly ineligible.

The interest rate to be paid for debt refinancing will be 3 percent per annum, and the businesses will have to pledge to increase their capital within a 2-year period, by an amount equivalent to 10 percent of the amount refinanced; this will be adjusted according to the evolution of the index listed in Circular 1050 of the Central Bank. They must also promise to pay in advance any refinanced credits in an amount equivalent to money they distribute in cash as profits or which they invest abroad.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT END OF CARRILLO'S VISIT

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 24 Nov 81 p 6

[Text] Responding to an invitation from Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party, Secretary General of the Spanish Communist Party Santiago Carrillo visited our country on the 22d and 23d of November 1981.

During his stay in Cuba, he had conversations with the first secretary of our party in which Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate member of the Politburo and member of the Secretariat, also participated, discussing aspects of the current international situation and points of interest in terms of relations between both parties.

During the fraternal meeting Santiago Carrillo reiterated to Fidel Castro the profound feelings of unflagging friendship and solidarity the Communists and people of Spain have for the Cuban Revolutionary Government in the face of the American imperialist threats of aggression which the Reagan administration has made public. He also declared himself in favor of putting an end to the unjust and criminal blockade imposed on our country and of the return of the territory the American military base in Guantanamo illegally occupies.

Both leaders felt that the plans for aggression directed against Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada, as well as the aim of crushing the Salvadoran people's legitimate struggle, led by their fighting vanguard, the FDR-FMLN [expansions unknown], in an escalation of aggression that may culminate in another brutal military intervention, will affect not only Central America and the Caribbean, but that they will create a dangerous world situation that will give cause for the deep concern of all progressive forces and lovers of peace.

Fidel Castro provided a detailed report on these facts and expressed our people's satisfaction with the Spanish Communists' firm and solidary response, expressed on that occasion just as it has at other moments of grave danger for our country, and stressed the fact that our people will go on working and preparing themselves to defend this line of defense of socialism in the Americas at any cost.

Comrade Santiago Carrillo expressed the profound concern of all forces participating in the European peace movement for the grave consequences these American imperialist plans for aggression against Central America and the Caribbean involve for peace in Europe and the world.

Santiago Carrillo's visit to Cuba took place within the context of the Spanish Communist Party and people's solidarity with Cuba, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Central America and the Caribbean and as a demonstration of this solidarity, for which Comrade Fidel personally expressed to Santiago Carrillo and the Spanish people our people's most profound gratitude.

CTC'S VEIGA REPORTS ON LABOR ACTIVITIES

Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 4, 5, 6 Nov 81

[Main report given by Roberto Veiga, secretary general of CTC and alternate member of Political Bureau of PCC, at 43rd meeting of CTC National Council]

/4 Nov 81 p 2 Part I/

[Text] Introduction

Comrades:

We begin the 43rd meeting of the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] National Council under the influence of the revolutionary climate created by the impressive demonstrations of the firmness and patriotism of all the people. In many ways, they express their conscious determination to fight to the last drop of blood to defend their threatened fatherland.

Better to die on your feet than to live on your knees! That is the irrevocable decision of a people who will never accept a return to the servile past, under the boot of Yankee imperialist genocidal killers and robbers.

We are still under the impact of the indignation and disgust we felt at the news of the criminal assassination of two peasants in Nicaragua and two young Cuban workers who were in that country carrying out the noble mission of fighting ignorance. History repeats itself but it will repeat itself completely. That working-class blood will fertilize the fruitful revolutionary crop that Sandino's people cultivate with their heroism. That blood will help strengthen the unbreakable ties of solidarity and internationalism that unite the Cuban revolution and the Nicaraguan revolution.

You have already received the document that gives the results of our work in the first 6 months. Some sent in their opinions. Others will have the opportunity to express them at this meeting.

As has already become customary, we will limit the scope of this report to emphasizing some of the most important activities carried out during these months and calling attention to those aspects which, in our opinion, we must concentrate on for the rest of the year. It is not our intention to cover all the tasks or even all the most important ones. We point this out to warn you that there will be omissions but many will be deliberate.

During the first half of the year, everyone worked resolutely and tenaciously to carry out the tasks of production and defense. This was a period filled with threats and aggression but we knew how to respond, strengthening the economy, redoubling combat capacity and deepening our political, revolutionary, communist and internationalist awareness. It was a period when we confirmed our staunch working-class determination to resist and conquer.

Last 1 May gave eloquent testimony of our powerful and invincible strength. The traditional workers' parades turned into impressive marches of the fighting people. Like inexhaustible waves, they reaffirmed the firm determination of all the people to increase production, improve services and guarantee everything required for the defense of the country.

Sugar Harvest

In the first half of the year, we completed the optimal and efficient sugar harvest asked of us by our chief and guide, comrade Fidel. We successfully carried out the work plan approved by the union movement to support this very important economic activity. At the last council meeting, we stressed the most important tasks that we did to stimulate the sugar harvest. Therefore, it is unnecessary to repeat them in this report although they must be kept in mind when planning our work for the new harvest that will begin in a few days.

More than 50,000 volunteer cutters will participate in the next harvest. The provinces are already mobilizing. It is absolutely necessary to select the best cutters. This principle also applies to the regular cutters. In the last harvest, 90 percent of the volunteer cutters worked under the option of 40 percent in guaranteed wages. This was a good experience. It is necessary to fight so that all those mobilized now consciously choose this option.

Before the grinding begins, each province must aspire to have all its cutters selected and organized into brigades with democratically chosen emulation commitments. In the last harvest, the volunteer and regular cutters formed 1,073 million-arroba brigades. That was a high figure. However, we must have more than 1,300 in this new harvest. An essential part of our work must be to give priority to this successful emulation movement. Although it is important to give priority to the million-arroba movement among the cutters, it is also important to give priority to it among the workers involved in mechanized cutting, reaping and hauling.

We must work to constantly improve the living and working conditions of all the participants in the harvest as much as possible. We have seen the formidable influence they can have on the good development of this activity. We must make efforts to systematically give good care to the person: the condition of his housing; the quality with which his food is processed; the hygienic and environmental conditions of dining rooms and snack bars; and appropriate distribution of work clothing and implements. We have already agreed with our comrades at MINAZ [Ministry of the Sugar Industry] to repeat the initiative to meet monthly in order to learn and try to resolve or adequately explain those matters that affect the workers.

This year work aimed at medical checkups and care for the cutters and combine operators received special stimulus. Our systematic concern for the person gives

us moral strength and authority to persuade him of the need to fulfill his duties: the fight to meet the technical norms for cutting, reaping and hauling; the effort to increase attendance and productivity of the workers who are involved in supplying cane to the mills; and the battle to achieve better industrial efficiency. These will demand considerable effort from all of us.

The National Sugar Workers Union will have to watch that all the necessary agro-industrial conditions are created in order to guarantee strict fulfillment of the start-up program at each mill. The main motto of the special sugar harvest emulation in our sugar mills must be to improve the efficiency indicators achieved. The goal to continue decreasing the number of mills that use oil is within reach. If we work hard, we will be able to continue achieving noticeable progress in absolute recovery. With respect to the exploitation of installed capacity, we still have many possibilities. We hope in the next sugar harvest the workers in our primary industry will again show their deep-rooted revolutionary awareness and their firm and traditional determination to overcome all the problems.

The wage regulations that we put into effect last year had positive results. They were well compensated by quantifiable and tangible achievements. We must continue with these same regulations in the next harvest. It is not good to make changes every year although we do not exclude the possibility of examining some exceptional situations like tying the wages of the crane operators and storage center workers and improving bonus regulations in the sugar industry.

The awards established for the special emulation favorably affected the state of mind of the workers, improved the emulation and, of course, contributed to the results obtained in the harvest. In the coming weeks, we must specify the number, variety and availability of awards for the next harvest. Of course, in doing this, we must evaluate some criticism that has been made about the awards, concerning their quality as well as their cost. When the allocations of awards for this emulation are set, we must not leave out the workers at the sugar shipping terminals. This decision is justified by the extraordinary importance of their work.

Our union movement will work with revolutionary passion to demonstrate that we can increase our sugar production much more, that we are far from having exhausted all possibilities. We will work for a larger and more efficient harvest! We will fight to consolidate our position as sugar producers!

During the harvest, there was also hard work to till the land, plant and cultivate cane. This notable effort is symbolized by the successful fulfillment of the impressive spring sowing plan that reached more than 5,000 caballerias. The extraordinary effort of our workers and the sustained work of their union leaders were a valuable contribution to this resounding victory.

The winter cane sowing plan underway at this time throughout the country must be fulfilled to culminate the achievements of the first half of the year. There are delays in this task. All our union organizations have the unavoidable duty to fight to overcome them.

Socialist Emulation

In the first half of the year, the union movement fulfilled its emulation commitments for the great national emulation saluting the 10th WFTU Congress. Almost all the unions and provinces met their commitments. As comrade Fidel stated at the ceremony commemorating the 28th anniversary of the attack on Moncada barracks, this has been the most efficient 6 months in the history of the revolution from the economic point of view.

We overfulfilled the technical-economic plan. There were great increases in the levels of productivity. There was progress in the rational use of resources. Production increased in all sectors.

About 82 percent of the emulation units fulfilled their collective commitments; 91 percent of the workers met their individual commitments. Both figures are much higher than those for the same date last year.

The emulation commitment that was hardest to achieve was for work safety and hygiene. The limited financial resources allocated for these objectives were poorly used and the planned measures were not carried out. A rising trend in work accidents continues and there is quite a shortage of certain safety devices.

As a result of the known limitations of our economy, we have had inappropriate objectives for resolving some urgent work safety and hygiene needs. However, we must recognize that this task has also been affected by problems in organization and planning as well as in the distribution mechanisms of safety devices. We sent our opinions on these problems to the appropriate organisms with our recommended solutions.

All the above does not ignore the fact that this activity is also hurt by the absence of any energetic action to solve these problems. There are many work centers where there are dangerous situations which can be solved without additional material resources but with determination, imagination and a little more sensitivity. We must resolutely fight the attitude in many places where objective problems are used to hide unscrupulousness, laziness and passiveness. We must do everything possible to preserve the health and life of the workers. The CTC and the unions must be much more demanding in this task. We are not being idealistic and asking for the impossible but we must be firm and inflexible in demanding that everything possible be done even if it takes a little work.

We will hold the National Safety and Hygiene Meeting in a few days. We have worked hard to prepare for this event and we hope it fulfills its objectives.

We will have to use all our forces to fulfill the work safety and hygiene plan for the year. Otherwise, some unions and provinces will run the risk of not fulfilling it which could endanger fulfillment of the commitments assumed by the union movement as a whole.

The urgent need to fulfill the annual technical-economic plan will force us to make an extraordinary effort in many places. We must keep in mind that, in certain economic activities, there will be problems with materials and raw materials. This

will force us to improve our work to achieve optimal use of available material and human resources.

The progress made in systematizing and expanding the emulation reviews at the work centers and motivating the conscious and enthusiastic participation of the workers is still inadequate. It is necessary to improve and consolidate it.

Efforts made so that incentives are presented to the winners at all the reviews are still inadequate. It is necessary to reinforce them.

The work done to have more meetings for certain jobs and professions is still inadequate. It is necessary to increase them.

In summary, we must impregnate our emulation work with all the revolutionary passion and strength required to make it possible for all unions and provinces to fulfill our great national emulation saluting the 10th WFTU Congress. We have committed our honor as revolutionaries to that objective.

In a solemn session of the 10th WFTU Congress, the CTC and the unions will present the emulation awards to the workers and groups that have the most outstanding results. The WFTU Secretariat recently agreed to award the 100 best workers, the 50 most distinguished work centers and the three best municipalities, provinces and unions on that occasion. Also the Hungarian unions invited a delegation of the most distinguished workers and collectives in the emulation to visit their country.

From all the above, it can be seen that we will have to adopt supplementary measures in the December and January emulation evaluation process. This is because the winners at the different levels must be determined by the first week of February. The assembly for labor merits and demerits and the selection of the best workers must be held from 4 December to 31 December.

During the stage that we analyzed, evaluation of the individual and collective emulation carried out last year saluting the Second Party Congress was completed. More than 18,000 worker collectives earned the Heroes of Moncada Banner and, of these, 4,363 won the Heroic Tradition Plaque. More than 1.9 million workers received certificates as fulfillers of the 1980 socialist emulation and more than 700,000 won diplomas as advanced workers of the 5-year period. The national unions selected 782 national vanguards and proposed 128 of them to the Council of State for the Lazaro Pena Order of the First Degree.

The Political Bureau named 296 worker collectives promoters of the 1980 socialist emulation. It granted the Second Party Congress Banner to the seven of these centers that had maintained that position since the First Party Congress. They are the Albert Kuntz Cracker Factory, Capitan Orestes Acosta Metallic Products Complex, Inegiro Asanuma Weaving Mill, Salvador Allende Primary Teacher Training School, GRANMA, Ministry of Foreign Trade and the Granma Province Truck Base.

We give the workers of these distinguished vanguard collectives the warm greetings and most sincere congratulations of our council.

Work Organization and Wages

Everything indicates that the approved goals for work organization and wages will be reached. The objectives were ambitious but fulfillment is going well.

More than 2.4 million workers have received the benefits of the General Wage Reform. It can be predicted that we will complete this task without great difficulty.

As to tied workers, our goal for this year is about 1.3 million. In the first 6 months, the number reached 1.16 million. If we continue at this rate, we will finish the year with more than the goal and, consequently, we will have reached the average percentage of tie existing now in socialist countries.

We agreed this year to update the 400,000 norms still not done. In the first 6 months, 310,000 were revised. We can end 1981 with this task completed.

We proposed to have 800,000 workers under the bonus payment system this year. In the first 6 months, that number reached 650,000. Of all the goals that we set in work organization and wages, it is precisely this one where we must reinforce our work in spite of the acceptable level of fulfillment.

In a relatively short time, we have tied more than 1 million workers and revised and updated virtually all norms, some of them on more than one occasion. However, this process has not been free from error and haste and has caused tension and disagreement in some places. At the beginning, some of these problems surprised us but it must be pointed out that we reacted properly. In general, everywhere that there were problems, we learned them and solved them satisfactorily and promptly. This does not mean that in the continuation of this process and in the fight to expand it, problems will not be repeated and disagreement shown. We must work so that these problems do not occur. If they do occur, we must be very aware of how this work is going in order to detect them and solve them consistently.

The national average fulfillment of norms is acceptable. A superficial analysis could lead us to the conclusion that the applied payment systems operate well and that they contribute to maximum exploitation of the workday. Not everyone agrees that this is true.

In some branches or sectors of the economy--for example, the sugar harvest, construction, freight transportation and ports--the norms are the same for all enterprises due to the similarity of the technology and techniques used and the existing level of organization. Those workers who, through exceptional skill acquired and through a superior effort, overfulfill the norms are not affected by their periodic updating since no matter how high that overfulfillment is, these workers are in the minority. For that reason, they do not have much effect on the national average overfulfillment of the work norms.

Let us give some examples. In cutting cane, we have men and even brigades that cut up to two and three times the norm. Nevertheless, the average fulfillment at the end of the sugar harvest is normal. The same thing happens with the norms in agriculture, construction, transportation and other activities.

There are, however, branches and activities where there are very individual situations. Because of their characteristics, the norms are not national and are usually limited to activities in certain jobs and establishments. Therefore, there are thousands of different norms for thousands of specific tasks. When there is great overfulfillment of a norm, it is occasionally not analyzed to see if it is attributable to the skill and extraordinary effort of the workers. Because it surpasses the established 115 percent, the norm is automatically updated. In many of the cases where this occurs, the increased norms become a deterrent for those workers, negatively affecting productivity and causing justified discontent. Since this is the present situation in many cases, some people say that some centers that are requesting more manpower really have more than enough. However, many workers could do more but limit themselves for these very reasons. In other words, they never exceed 115 percent fulfillment in order to prevent revision of the norms. This means nonexploitation of the existing productivity reserves. This reality imposes the need to examine this situation with the State Committee for Labor and Social Security in order to find the most satisfactory solution.

The above also slows down the distinguished worker movement within the socialist emulation which we must encourage as an important way to promote more productive work methods to benefit all society.

Innovators and Efficiency Experts

At the beginning of December, we will hold the ANIR [National Association of Innovators and Efficiency Experts] Constitutional Congress. We have worked hard to prepare for that event. There have been many initiatives to stimulate and encourage this movement. The base committees were renewed and/or ratified and municipal and provincial conferences were held.

The economic contribution of the innovators and efficiency experts rose to 29,815,809 pesos in the first 6 months. By comrade Fidel's initiative, the 50 most distinguished innovators and efficiency experts in the country were rewarded with a Lada 1600 automobile. Another 900 were also given material incentives.

We must make the First ANIR Congress an event that helps strengthen the influence of this important movement on the economic development of the country.

Production and Service Assemblies

We can say that we have continued advancing slowly in the fight for quality in the production and service assemblies as well as in the control of their results. We still have a long way to go in this. We are very far from achieving what we should. It is necessary to stop the trend of giving priority to the representative assemblies, distracting attention from the regular base assemblies. The representative assemblies cannot really transmit the opinions and the state of mind of the workers if those who participate in them do not have the mandate of the mass of workers. We still have a lot to discuss about improving these assemblies, increasing the interest of our members and using the results optimally.

In this second half of the year, we will install some mechanisms in the national CTC that will help us improve control over the periodic reports that we receive on the results of these assemblies.

Some Labor and Social Problems

At the last council meeting, we reported that we had detected 3,584,496 infractions of labor and social legislation in the union inspection in the second half of 1980. At that time, we said we would fight hard to correct them during the first half of this year and keep them from being repeated. Today we can report with satisfaction that, in the period we analyzed, 95 percent of these violations have been corrected. We see this as a modest but appreciable contribution by our union movement to the task to comply with the labor and social legislation consecrated by the revolution.

As we proposed, we held a union inspection to evaluate the application of Decree Laws No. 32, 34 and 36 in the first half of this year. The results revealed the importance of these laws and their positive repercussion on the fight to strengthen labor discipline. This does not refute the fact that we found procedural errors in the application of Decree Laws No. 32 and 34 as well as cases of obvious excess.

/5 Nov 81 p 2 Part II/

[Text] In about 10,000 of the 189,316 measures applied up to the time of the survey, the punishment was excessive for the infraction committed. Most of these excesses were corrected by the courts. In the cases where there were economic effects, the interested parties were compensated according to law. Viewed in quantitative terms, there were not many excesses but this is a problem that we cannot measure in statistical terms; it is mainly a political problem. To us, one single case of an injustice or arbitrariness is an important problem that forces us to act firmly to find a just solution. There were places where excesses in the application of these decree laws were so disproportionate that we had to act quickly and firmly. Our timely intervention prevented unnecessary tension and conflicts.

The results of our action, the influence of the inspection and, of course, the greater maturity acquired by our administration have diminished the number of problems and excesses in the application of these laws. Supervising their just application must be a permanent task for us.

This union inspection revealed that, in general, the administration did not act with the necessary strictness in those cases where the application of Decree Law No. 36 was fully justified. This was a situation that we noted and denounced at our last council meeting. Now there is the as yet unconfirmed impression that recently there have been signs of more consistency in the application of this law. This is a situation that we must verify. If it really is being applied consistently, we must encourage it. If it is the opposite, we must strongly denounce it.

The Internal Disciplinary Regulations are to go into effect this year. We are far behind in this task. Only 5.6 percent of the enterprises have applied them and less than 20 percent have written them. The unions must fight harder to expedite this and increase the level of demand in the administration of the different organisms.

We are very concerned about the great difficulties and growing violations of some of the existing laws that guarantee the social security of the workers. There are innumerable problems in certification of time of service and wages paid and the

established terms for pensions are frequently violated. We have to work hard to solve this problem. Therefore, it is very important to make use of the results of the social security inspection that we finished a few days ago.

During these months, we carried out a union inspection of the application of the established regulations for direct hiring in all the work centers of the country. We have not yet summarized the results of this inspection; however, from the partial reports, we know that there are many violations. They must all be resolved this year and we must prevent their repetition.

In this second half of the year, we have made a great effort to compile and print all the existing labor and social legislation. This documentation will serve as the basis for a massive training process to increase the skill of the leaders of the union sections and the members of the labor councils. Obviously, this task is very important. We will begin in November with a national seminar and the program will go into full effect in the first quarter of next year.

During this stage, special attention has been given to the worker dining rooms. We have reinforced the fight for their correct operation, for quality and variety in the products that they serve, for hygiene and for the introduction of new initiatives to help eliminate many of their problems. We are successfully applying the system of optional offers in many places. It is necessary to continue extending this system.

During these months, there have been problems with work clothes and shoes. We have held meetings with the production and distribution organisms. We are working as hard as possible to find the best solutions to at least partially respond to this problem.

Battle for Ninth Grade

During the first 6 months, there was progress in the fight for cultural and technical advancement of the workers, particularly our great task--the battle for ninth grade. We already had 70,000 graduates from this level in February. We exceeded the enrollment goal that same month with 138,690 workers registered.

We did hard work for the recently concluded enrollment last September shown by the enrollment of 231,233 workers. This is the highest enrollment ever at this level.

During these months, we must make a supreme effort to promote class attendance in order to guarantee the retention and promotion rates that we have set.

By February 1982, more than 400,000 workers must be studying on this level. This goal will demand prodigious work, particularly in the unions and provinces that did not fulfill the September enrollment plan. This objective is not idealistic; it is really possible. It is also an urgent necessity in order to achieve victory in this battle. What we do in 1981 and 1982 is decisive in order to graduate the 700,000 workers pledged for 1985.

This task is much more technically and organizationally complex than the battle for sixth grade. To master the knowledge required to graduate from ninth grade

requires several years of study. To meet this goal in the 5-year period, the majority of the planned number of workers must be studying in the first 2 years. If we do not achieve this, we risk losing this battle. We cannot harbor the false notion of making up for any delay by appealing to a final effort in the last years of the 5-year period.

It is important that we pay proper attention to the free tests. This initiative answers the needs of many workers who, for justified reasons, cannot attend the regular course. We must have more than 32,000 take these tests in December.

There are two activities that, with proper priority, can give this task impetus. They are: the special emulation of the battle for ninth grade and the incorporation to these courses of all the union leaders that need it.

The objectives that we propose in this battle are ambitious but we are optimistic. If we work hard and intelligently, we are convinced that we will achieve victory.

Fight Against Dengue

During this stage, we had to confront the criminal and unscrupulous biological warfare unleashed against our country by imperialism. We had to especially fight against dengue and its carrier, the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. This epidemic took 156 lives, including 99 children.

The CTC and the unions actively joined the program approved by the party and the government to eradicate dengue and its causes.

We carefully fulfilled the work plan that we approved for these objectives. It was divided into several stages like: training union cadres at all levels about the characteristics of this epidemic and the ways to fight it; having the unions inspect themselves in order to detect and eliminate the sources or breeding grounds of the mosquito in all work centers; and incorporating our union members en masse to this task.

The three times the unions inspected themselves during the first 6 months they found more than 100,500 sources or mosquito breeding grounds. About 99 percent or 99,494 were eliminated.

We must justly salute and recognize the selfless and important work of the health workers in the fight against dengue. Our doctors, nurses, technicians and other health workers acted properly and were up to the task.

Last 26 October a great national campaign aimed at eradicating rats and mice began. This campaign and the complete eradication of the sources or breeding grounds of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito that remain must receive all our attention. The unions must inspect themselves monthly and analyze their results in the regular monthly production and service assemblies.

Territorial Militia

In the last 6 months, the unions gave a strong contribution to the creation of the MTT [Territorial Militia]. We are carrying out a broad assembly process to promote the support of the workers for this new and important complement to the national defense system. The results showed the resolute support of all our workers for the initiative of organizing and financing the MTT. About 2 million workers expressed their willingness to join the MTT.

The national campaign to collect funds for its expenses already totals 25,223,041.97 pesos; the unions contributed 18,265,895.32 of that. We must try for all unions and provinces to fulfill their pledged contributions before the end of this year.

Next month we will celebrate our sixth Red Sunday. We will dedicate it to the 64th anniversary of the October socialist revolution and to the celebration of the 10th WFTU Congress in our country. The financial resources obtained will be allocated for the MTT.

We will not hold this Red Sunday on 8 November as was initially planned but on 15 November. This is due to the fact that the provincial people's government assemblies will be held on 8 November. An important number of delegates and many leaders of the party, the CTC, the unions and the state organisms throughout the country are committed to attend them. They asked us for the opportunity to participate with the workers and all the people in this great mobilization.

Based on the valuable experience of previous years, we must achieve the greatest, most organized and productive participation of the workers in this great day of volunteer work. Under our main motto of production and defense, this mobilization must stimulate the development of our political and ideological awareness and contribute to the encouragement of all agroindustrial tasks in the sugar harvest, especially planting winter cane, as well as those related to the planting and cultivation of tobacco and other agricultural products. With respect to the industrial production and service centers, we must give special attention to the fight to make up for or reduce delays where they exist, help fulfill or overfulfill their respective plans where possible, expedite work in all the port-transportation-domestic economy chains and stimulate other important tasks related to work safety and hygiene, particularly cleaning the work centers and their surrounding areas, as part of the national hygiene campaign.

Organization and Internal Finances

In this first 6 months, there was hard organizational work.

Municipal CTC conferences were held and union conferences in the municipalities and provinces were basically completed.

The congresses of the national agricultural and forestry, chemical, mining and energy, light industry and metallurgical unions were held successfully. In this second half of the year, we must finish the provincial CTC conferences--seven have already occurred--and we must hold the national congresses of the unions of workers in culture, public administration, communications and health.

The program to draw the advanced and intermediate organisms closer to the union bases continued developing well. The 6-month plan was exceeded by 20 percent. There were 218,513 visits to the union bases. It pleases us that the leader participation in the assemblies with the workers has grown proportionately during these visits.

Last 29 June, the CTC National Committee adopted measures aimed at strengthening ties between the advanced and intermediate cadres and our base organizations. It is an undelgale duty for all of us to strictly comply with these agreements.

In this first half of the year, we achieved 98 percent union affiliation. This level has not been surpassed by any country in the world. The important thing now is to work systematically to consolidate these results.

We will have some large additional expenditures this year like: the application of the General Wage Reform to our employees, officials and leaders; expenditures derived from social security payments that we did not make in the past; and the initial expenditures of the 10th WFTU Congress. In spite of these additional expenses, we feel it is likely that our internal finances will be balanced at the end of the year because of a readjustment in our expenses, a heightened austerity policy and **increased** collection of union dues. As of 31 August, we had collected 24,376,000 pesos--that is, 77 percent of the annual plan. This represents 4.5 million pesos more than last year at the same date.

The feasible task of fulfilling the plan to collect union dues as an indispensable requirement to finance our expenses and maintain our organization means that we have extended the initiative of stimulating early collection of dues.

Although it is not a generalized opinion of the workers, we do know that some disagree with that initiative. Naturally, we must be sensitive to those opinions. This is a problem which we have to consider since it is very important from the political and union point of view.

The direct fulfillers of our tasks are the workers at the base. Without them, without their enthusiastic and active participation, all our agreements and resolutions, no matter how well conceived, would be useless, worthless. Our tasks can be fulfilled at the base to the degree that the workers feel that the union is theirs. Anything that we do so that each worker understands that he makes up the foundation of his union organization, that his efforts lead to the glory of the union, that his concerns and aspirations are heard, evaluated and channeled by his union, we do so that these feelings will grow in the workers. Anything we do so that the workers feel the union is theirs is fully justified.

The act of paying union dues monthly reinforces the feeling in the worker that the union is his. The people it represents support it economically. These same feelings are there when we do this three or four times a year but unquestionably these feelings are reinforced and grow when it is done 12 times a year.

Everyone who has some union experience knows that when a worker or group of workers has some adverse opinion about the work of their union, they invariably reveal that opinion when it is time to pay their union dues. Those who best know the opinion

in the work center about the union are those in charge of the collection of the union dues. The monthly collection is a valuable gauge--although not the only one, of course--that helps us systematically take the pulse of the workers. The monthly collection is also an instrument that unquestionably forces us to be more active and diligent in answering the concerns and disagreements of the workers. Generally, in work centers where the collection of the union dues is low, there are problems, there are worker concerns or there is poor union work.

We must not advocate that the act of paying union dues become automatic; this act must have profound political and union meaning. The union is paid because it is our organization just as the rent is paid because it is our house. Although that is not a good example, that is the idea we want to transmit.

There are unions where, traditionally and for justified reasons, union dues are collected in advance. Therefore, we are not advocating "starting over" but we are trying to indicate the dangers of generalization. We feel that in those unions where an exception is justified, it must be endorsed by a democratic assembly of the interested parties.

If it is consistent to give unequal treatment to unequal things, it is inappropriate to give equal treatment to unequal things. We think that the council must ask the CTC National Committee to reflect on this topic.

We must confess that we have always viewed with concern the fact that those who pay in advance first receive the stamp as good contributors compared to those who are asked every month to pay their union dues.

There is progress in strengthening the internal life of the organization. Nevertheless, the achievements do not yet respond to our modest aspirations.

Fulfillment of the plan for regular meetings of the organizations and organisms has improved. Nevertheless, they are still not held at the base with the established regularity and many of them are too automatic. If the union section does not meet periodically and all its members do not participate and seriously discuss and solve problems and tasks, we simply cannot say that the union exists there. The union is not an abstract thing; it is very concrete. The principal and direct means of carrying out its tasks is through the workers grouped in a union section. If the leadership committee does not function as it should, it will obviously prevent fulfillment of the union's objectives. We must devote more attention to these problems stemming from the need to strengthen the internal life of our base organizations.

At the meetings of the CTC and union committees, especially in the provinces, there is always a percentage--at times high--of absenteeism. These comrades are represented by someone else who was not elected for that responsibility. This practice violates the principle that these committees are leadership organs, elected democratically at their respective conferences and congresses. We must explain that these are not representative organs of specific sectors or territories although these have been taken into account in the elections.

In general, the secretaries general of the unions in the provinces are also members of the CTC provincial committee and the national committee of their respective union. When both committees are convoked by coincidence at the same time, we cause this situation. Also when the meetings are abused or convoked without appropriate notice in the provinces as well as nationally, we cause this situation. The council must speak out to completely eliminate the practice of sending substitutes to the committee meetings at all levels and must ask the CTC National Committee to establish the indispensable norms to resolve the organizational problems that can affect this.

There is progress in our cadre policy, concern for medical checkups has improved, there is more demand for time off and complete formation of the staffs has improved. We no longer have any justification for incomplete ones.

There are three matters related to the cadre policy that, if we look backward, perhaps some people feel satisfied. However, if we look ahead--which is definitely where we all must look--we must still feel unsatisfied.

First, each time there are fewer cases where we do not consider the union background and the branch or sectorial background in promoting a cadre. We can only feel satisfied when we can state that these requirements are considered in all cases. Our own experience and the practice of unions in socialist countries teach us that this is a principle which it is very dangerous to violate.

Second, we could fill many pages explaining how much progress there has been, especially in these last 2 years, in the systematic process of cadre evaluation. Nevertheless, we must state that there are still evaluations that lack the necessary critical and self-critical spirit and others are superficial and automatic. There are organisms that, at the end of the evaluation, give the impression in the documents that they have bureaucratically completed formation of a staff rather than analyzed in depth the virtues and defects of each person. We have to eliminate that procedure completely. After all, periodic evaluation can never replace the critical and self-critical spirit in daily union life. It is not consistent with the revolutionary spirit and the political and moral unity that prevail among us to hold back criticism until the time of the evaluation.

Third, if we compare the movements of cadres during the first half of this year with the same period in 1960, we can note that there is a decrease. However, the stability of our cadres is only about 79 percent; it is still low. This is a problem that we must resolve. It is unnecessary to demonstrate how it can affect the results of our work. We have already basically resolved our structural problems and we have overcome the old latent wage problem of the professional cadres. We are in the position to be more demanding when we evaluate the stability of our leaders, especially at the intermediate and advanced levels.

The stability of the cadres at the base is directly related to our attention, our help, our policy of advancement and training and our efforts to make the norms that must rule the internal life of the leadership organizations prevail.

To resolve the problems that we still face in these three vital aspects of our cadre policy can have immeasurable repercussions on the fulfillment of our tasks.

Because of what this represents and because of its significance for our work, the council must ask the CTC National Committee for measures to resolve these problems and establish systematic control for their fulfillment.

10th WFTU Congress

As was announced, Cuba will be the site of the 10th WFTU Congress in February 1982. The Cuban unions have the great honor and responsibility to create the appropriate conditions for the successful realization of this event. We have done a lot to prepare for this congress. We must do much more in the coming months.

There is great confidence that we can respond to the decision to hold this great international union meeting in our fatherland. There is great interest among the union members of the world to participate in what has been called the Havana Congress. It excites interest in our fatherland, its achievements, its feats and, especially, its worthiness.

Never before was the celebration of a WFTU congress more timely. Never before has mankind lived in such dramatic times as now when the dark shadow of a nuclear conflagration threatens its destruction. Never before has common sense shown so clearly to all workers and union members in the world that, over and above political and philosophical differences, they have the unavoidable duty to join forces and actively mobilize to make the just ideas of peace prevail.

Voices clamor everywhere for peace. Rejection of the warmongering policy of the irresponsible fascists in the main nucleus of the U.S. administration spreads throughout the world. We note how these desires are expressed with growing force among the workers and peoples of Western Europe. In the United States itself, demonstrations condemning the absurd and adventurous actions of the Reagan government appear.

/6 Nov 81 p 2 Part III/

[Text] The unions in all the countries can represent a powerful and decisive force in the fight to avert the real dangers of a world war. If all the workers of the world become aware of these dangers, warn about the consequences and act to stop them, human civilization can have well-grounded hopes in its noble aspiration to survive.

This shows the great importance of the 10th WFTU Congress at this precise time. For that reason, we do not view this forum within the narrow framework of its affiliated organizations but as a great unitary congress of all the workers of the world.

Union members from all latitudes, trends and orientations are making the effort to attend this event. We can disagree with the unions of this or that capitalist country or with its leadership on ideological matters and on positions concerning some problems but, in many others, we have common interests. Our points of view must continue growing closer so that mankind can survive and so that the serious economic crisis that shakes the capitalist world today is not dumped on the shoulders of the workers.

The international unity of the workers can stop preparations for a new war.

Our admirable and fighting people and our revolutionary and industrious workers will welcome our class brothers who attend the 10th WFTU Congress as delegates with open arms.

Those who visit us on that occasion will not find the superficial glitter of a consumer society with its inequalities, vices and aberrations in Cuba. They will find a harried but dignified people who are preparing to fiercely defend every inch of their territory. They will find a people who will never let themselves be subjugated. They will find a people who have no reason to blush when admitting their limitations and problems because they have the satisfaction of having eliminated exploitation and they work hard and honorably to shape their own destiny. They will find a people who have wiped out forever discrimination, privileges, humiliation and shamelessness. They will find a people who are convinced that the meaning of human life is unimaginable without ideas for which it is worthwhile to act and they are ready to fight and die to defend those ideas.

The 10th WFTU Congress will be a great congress, a valuable and important contribution to the cause of peace and the pledge to strengthen the unity of action of all the workers of the world. To achieve that supreme objective, the Cuban union movement will work untiringly, optimistically and passionately.

Great Tasks That Struggle Imposes on Us

We expect hard years. It is not difficult to predict hard work for the unions in the coming years. We will have to expand and deepen work on all fronts.

Capitalism is caught up in a serious economic crisis. In the immense majority of capitalist countries, inflation grows, there is recession and increasing unemployment. The living conditions of the workers are deteriorating. The effects of this crisis are becoming asphyxiating and unbearable for almost all the countries in the so-called Third World. The situation is very critical and the worst thing is that no prospect of any solution can be seen. In fact, the problems continue to get worse.

The socialist countries indirectly suffer the effects of this economic crisis. Cuba, of course, is no exception.

We have the advantages of our socialist production relations and the invaluable foreign aid that we receive, particularly from the Soviet Union. However, the critical economic situation of the world also negatively influences our economy.

When planning our economic development, we try to progressively decrease the influence of the capitalist market. However, we have to resort to that market to acquire certain products that are indispensable. In order to buy those products, we must have freely convertible money and, essentially, we obtain that money, to a greater or lesser degree, based on the quantity and prices of sugar that we export to the world market.

In other words, in this case sugar is basically our currency. What has happened? Well, our currency has unexpectedly decreased in value in that market. Why? Because the prices of the products that we import from that market have multiplied, rising along with the uncontrollable inflation, and inversely sugar prices have declined sharply and unpredictably.

The extraordinary growth of interest rates on our foreign debt, increased shipping charges and rental of ships that we need to transport our merchandise as well as other factors aggravate that difficult situation.

When we write our economic development plan, we try to be realistic. We were very aware of a future decline in sugar prices but, of course, we could not guess that they would drop so much.

Consequently, we now must face a delay in some of the economic and social objectives that we had proposed as well as shortages of certain products, the establishment of certain restrictions and the adoption of certain urgent measures. We have no other alternative.

In his brilliant speech at the closing of the Second CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] Congress, Fidel referred to this problem clearly, at length and in depth. Among the measures that he called indispensable were the immediate application of reformed retail prices which, as he explained, were supposed to be introduced simultaneously with the execution of the General Wage Reform. It is easy to understand the need for this measure which, like many others, can keep the country from being affected by an inflationary spiral that would hurt labor discipline and be a major obstacle in confronting future economic problems.

The CTC and all the unions have the unavoidable obligation to advocate that all workers learn more about the different aspects that affect the world economy, that they see clearly how these affect our economic development and understand and be ready to support and share in the limitations and sacrifices imposed on us by the measures that we must adopt.

The imperialists must not gloat over our problems. They must not live on illusions because they will run the risk of dying disillusioned.

The unknowns that can limit the development of our economy will not discourage us in the firmly taken pledge to achieve greater economic efficiency. On the contrary, they will compel us to act energetically to keep them in check and will be a spur to inspire all Cuban workers to open an unstoppable offensive in the effort to improve savings and exploit all the resources to the maximum. Our union response to the economic problems will be: to develop imagination and improve management to properly use all our potential, to work harder and better and to be much more demanding and efficient!

We are ready to resist and overcome a military blockade and even direct aggression from the imperialists. We have more than enough awareness, readiness, willingness and spirit of sacrifice to confront the problems that the international situation imposes on us.

The dangers that affect our economy are supplemented by dangers that affect peace and, in our concrete case, the dangers of a world confrontation added to the dangers from the Yankee imperialist threats and aggression against Cuba.

Cuba lies in the center of the gun sight of imperialist aggression. Reagan and his followers feel great hatred toward our fatherland. The idea of having a socialist country near their coasts obsesses them. Our firm principles, our unshakable friendship with the Soviet Union and the other countries in the socialist community and our firm solidarity with the peoples of Africa and the world revolutionary and progressive movement keep them from sleeping. They boldly proclaim that it is necessary to destroy our example. Their threats, provocations and aggressions against our country are increasing.

We cannot lower our guard for an instant. To develop the will of the workers to fight and to advocate and stimulate their participation in the tasks derived from the need to strengthen the defense of the country are requirements to which all our unions will devote themselves!

We will make our territory an indestructible bulwark!

At this very moment, everything points to the fact that imperialism is preparing to initiate new aggression against our fatherland. The campaign orchestrated against Cuba has taken a dangerous turn; we are living in times that are very similar to those that preceded the criminal mercenary attack at the Bay of Pigs. The imperialist beast is crouching and waiting for the right moment to spring.

They respond to our government's denunciations and challenge to their shameless lies that try to justify their aggression with evasions and new threats.

The workers and all the Cuban people are aware of the times in which they live and the dangers that lurk but no one here is afraid, no one here is intimidated. Everyone is prepared to resist and defeat our enemies.

The workers in our country are ready to defend the revolution at whatever cost. The revolution is the daughter of the working class and parents usually make as many sacrifices for their children as necessary.

There are many workers involved in the preparations to guarantee national defense.

All the unions must advocate that this indispensable and urgent mobilization not affect production and service or affect them as little as possible. We will achieve this if we interest all those who remain in the work centers in the need to make an extra effort to make up for the work of those mobilized. We must do this in every work center. In each one, we must stipulate how many have been mobilized, how many remain and what schedule and/or special effort must be advocated to fight to maintain the normal flow of production and services as much as possible.

We must give all those who are not mobilized the feeling that that additional effort is what the fatherland asks of them at this time. If the contribution of those who are mobilized is meritorious, the contribution of those who remain in their jobs making an extra effort, fighting to insure our economic tasks, is no

less meritorious. Of course, this is a special situation that does not fall under the strict application of the principles that rule the organization and payment for volunteer work. The circumstances demand maximum flexibility.

Our enemies are trying all their weapons. Now they talk of installing new high-powered radio stations aimed at Cuba. What are they trying to do? To step up their traditional anti-Cuban campaign, to deceive our people, to penetrate with their alienating ideas and to try to subvert and destabilize the revolution. Those are their classic methods.

What they are trying to do is one thing; what they will achieve is another. At least with respect to the unions, they will make us strengthen our political-ideological work, become much more militant, firmer, more tenacious, more patient, more persistent and more systematic on this important battlefield.

We were born from struggle and the struggle itself made us grow solid and unmovable. If they persist in the challenge, then we accept it. History will repeat itself. Facing each confrontation, we will rise stronger and more invincible. We know how to swim in those seas and we can swim in them no matter how rough the water is.

Their ideas will not penetrate us!

Their threats will not daunt us!

Their slander will not confuse us!

Their wealth will not dazzle us!

The workers and the people will reject their campaigns using the shield of repudiation, concrete and revealing testimony of their unity and loyalty to principles!

We unconditionally support comrade Fidel's speech at the closing of the Second CDR Congress! The valuable teachings in it will be study material for all the workers and their union leaders, their guidelines issued on such a memorable occasion. They will be made concrete in a work program that specifies the actions to be taken by the Cuban union movement to face the economic problems and appropriately respond to the threats and aggression of the Yankee imperialists.

The Cuban union movement will fight on all fronts!

Our invincible people will triumph! The bright banners of internationalism will wave forever. The wheels of history will not stop!

Our fronts are raised, the banners hoisted. The cadres formed by Lazaro Pena and all those who belong to his beloved union organization will be ready and will always respond to the confidence of the party and its chief and guide, comrade Fidel!

7717

CSO: 3010/437

CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ ON CANCUN, AFRICA, OTHER ISSUES

Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 29 Oct 81 pp 32-33

[Interview with Vice President Rafael Rodriguez; date and plate not indicated]

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez is the vice president of Cuba and the second most important man in the island. A Communist Party member since 1932, as a student he took part in activities directed against the Batista regime. In 1959, after the revolution, Rodriguez was appointed to the post of director of NOTICIAS DE HOY, the party daily. In 1962, this well-known lawyer appeared as a plaintiff in the famous trial of prisoners taken during the Bay of Pigs invasion. In 1966, he was promoted within the ranks of the Communist Party and since 1980 he has been overseeing the Ministries of Foreign Relations, Foreign Trade, Economic Cooperation and his country's Central Bank. As the official in charge of relations between the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and allied parties, Rodriguez is Fidel Castro's top adviser on international policy.

[Question] Vice president, why is it that Cuba did not take part in the Cancun meeting devoted to the North-South dialogue in which 22 nations participated. Did Mexico perhaps represent Cuba?

[Answer] The only reason Cuba failed to take part in the Cancun meeting was the manifest opposition of U.S. President Ronald Reagan. If Fidel Castro had turned up at the meeting, Reagan would have stayed away. The highly publicized North-South dialogue would have been meaningless without the participation of such an important sector of the northern hemisphere.

[Question] Was Cuba represented by Mexico?

[Answer] We did not want to burden Mexico with such a heavy responsibility. Mexico had clearly indicated its willingness to present our viewpoints.

[Question] Don't you feel bitter?

[Answer] The fact that we did not want to burden friendly countries with such responsibility does not mean that we are satisfied with that conference. Later on I will explain that the attitude of the United States is arrogant and arbitrary. The United States still believes that the problems of the world can be solved by military and economic power.

[Question] But the United States has accused Cuba of supporting Central American guerrillas and supplying them with weapons.

[Answer] False justifications would give the impression that Cuba supports armed rebellion in Central America and in other countries. The United States wants to have a strong military presence in Central America and carry out, together with its allies, a policy of aggression against Cuba. The United States acts as if it were necessary to forcibly subdue Cuba and call it to order.

[Question] You have called U.S. Secretary of State Haig "a liar." Is there a new hardening of positions?

[Answer] When U.S. policy became more aggressive, we gave an adequate political answer. We have created the territorial militias [MTI]. We are ready to defend every inch of our territory. Cuba will not abandon its principles. It is possible to annoy Cuba but not to frighten it.

It is equally impossible to force Cuba to change its foreign policy. It will continue to follow its unchanged course, the course of its interests.

[Question] In the United States, there is mention of a "Haig Plan" which amounts to an ultimatum: Cuba must withdraw its troops from Angola and Ethiopia and stop supporting the Latin American guerrillas or it will be subjected to a show of force which could be a blockade or an invasion. How does Cuba intend to react?

[Answer] The United States has said that it still does not have a definite policy toward Latin America. Haig is the king of man who will offer to allow us to live if we behave in what he considers to be the correct manner.

We would never accept that kind of compromise. At the Second Party Congress, Fidel made this quite clear in his report when he said: "Principles are not negotiable." Our commitments are based on principles as is the case in our defense of Angola's territorial integrity....

[Question] And what about Ethiopia?

[Answer] The same. We shall remain there as long as the government of that country considers it to be necessary.

[Question] Will the South African invasion of Angola lead Cuba to increase its commitment there?

[Answer] Our governments have considered the possibility of stationing Cuban troops near the border with Namibia to make our position quite clear. Therefore, nobody can claim that Cuban troops in Angola are helping the SWAPO revolutionary forces in Namibia. We are there merely to protect Angola's sovereignty.

[Question] I will repeat my question: do you intend to increase your troops?

[Answer] We have enough troops to carry out our mission.

[Question] It is reported that you have between 20,000 and 40,000 troops. What is the true figure?

[Answer] We cannot give figures. The Americans know perfectly well how many we have since they keep a watch on our transports.

[Question] Cuba is protecting the territorial integrity of Angola and Ethiopia. What duties do you think that you have toward Latin America?

[Answer] Our commitments there are based on principles which are older than our revolution--the solidarity among Latin American nations fighting for their liberation.

[Question] Does that mean all countries?

[Answer] If the United States happens to disregard international law and start a naval blockade of Cuba, we will oppose it with our own forces. If it goes even further and launches a military aggression, we are prepared to pay the price.

[Question] Would Cuba's reply to a U.S. blockade eventually lead Cuba to give greater support to revolutionary endeavors and to the Soviet Union?

[Answer] Our solicitude toward revolutionaries has nothing to do with our relations with the United States. If the United States changes its policy, we could have normal relations with that country while continuing to express our solidarity with Latin American revolutionaries who are fighting for democracy and national independence.

[Question] And what about U.S. pressures?

[Answer] There can be no connection between our attitude toward revolutionaries and our relationship with the United States. Our solidarity with El Salvador has nothing to do with the fact that we are in confrontation with the United States.

[Question] Your position regarding the situation in Central America is similar to that of the Socialist International. Have there been any contacts between the two of you?

[Answer] The documents of our party offer official confirmation of our relations with the Socialist International. We believe that prominent socialists and social democrats from all parties are seeking to bring changes and freedom to the world which is what the PCC also wants.

[Question] It is possible that the PCC and the Socialist International may work together?

[Answer] That is our goal as far as Latin America is concerned. We believe that our views coincide in many aspects of Latin American issues. It means, among other things, to present a clear picture of the people's struggle in Central America as France and Mexico have done by recognizing the opposition in El Salvador as "a legitimate political force." The Cuban position also will be made clear in the world arena. Such statements serve to strengthen our position.

[Question] What are your relations with social democrats in Latin America following last month's meeting between Fidel Castro and Hans-Jurgen Wischniewski, the vice president of the Democratic Party?

[Answer] They have also improved. And relations exist between the German Social Democratic Party [SPD] and the PCC and between the leaders of these two parties. These relations existed prior to the meeting between Wischniewski and Fidel Castro. In the Central American crisis our views have coincided but this does not mean that there is total identity of views between the social democrats and the Cuban communists.

[Question] Have you had other contacts?

[Answer] A short while ago, a delegation of social democrats from Bremen visited our country. Shortly after Tito's death, I met with Willy Brandt. We agreed to meet somewhere in the world at a later date. But, so far, we have not been able to arrange that meeting.

[Question] Did you not invite him to come to Cuba?

[Answer] We did not want to put him in a position where he would have to do something which could have alienated him from his allies.

[Question] Did the contacts with the German SPD have any practical results?

[Answer] Regarding the policy of the Socialist International in El Salvador, Cuba stated that the time for a joint action in search of a political solution to that problem would come when the opposition group Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and the Democratic Revolutionary Front reach an agreement.

[Question] Is it possible to find a political solution in El Salvador?

[Answer] All those who favor a political solution in that country are in agreement to say that the first requirement is to replace the official leadership by some kind of transition government. Personally, I think that it will be very difficult to reach a political solution under the military junta.

[Question] But the junta is still in power.

[Answer] Because the United States continues to support it financially and with arms. If they stopped doing that....

[Question]There would be a military solution.

[Answer] Not necessarily. A broader based solution could be found as advocated by the social democrats or by the Mexicans without the struggle ending in a military defeat. Representatives of that force could negotiate with the opposition forces already recognized by Germany and Mexico.

[Question] Cuba claims that it does not lie when it says that it has never sent weapons or advisers to El Salvador. In that case, how are you helping the guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti Front?

[Answer] Through our international solidarity, through our close ties with various organizations. Also by the well-known and often mentioned method of joint work.

[Question] What do you mean by "well-known" and "often mentioned"?

[Answer] Such things as assistance in their travels. Helping the guerrillas and the democratic forces does not always mean providing advisers and weapons. We have helped them in other ways.

[Question] When Colombia cooled its relations with Cuba, it complained that your country had provided advisers and weapons for the M-19 guerrillas. Cuba categorically denied the charge of having supplied weapons for the guerrillas but did not deny training them. Are the guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti Front undergoing training here?

[Answer] We did not want to argue the point because during this last year many people have come to our country in search of training for various reasons. That is why we did not deny it. When a Latin American revolutionary wants to learn the art of fighting for independence and how to get organized to become free of a cruel domination, we cannot refuse him. This also applies to the Salvadorans.

[Question] "Proletarian internationalism" allows Cuba to send troops to Ethiopia and Angola. But in El Salvador there is no longer mention of liberation as an objective. Would Cuba answer a call for assistance?

[Answer] Revolutions are made by the people. There is a difference between giving financial backing to a revolution and helping to maintain national sovereignty. Angola and Ehtiopia were fully established states when they asked for help against military aggression.

In El Salvador, the situation has not reached that critical point. At this stage, we do not know what our attitude will be since we cannot foresee future developments.

[Question] The United States supports dictators but they also support liberation movements, as in the case of former dictator Somoza of Nicaragua. You do the same but with different objectives.

[Answer] Revolution can neither be exported nor imported. It must be a grass-roots movement of the people. The popular masses must make sure that their revolution is unwavering and that it triumphs. Concern over international solidarity regarding counterrevolutions coming from outside can come later.

[Question] Is there any chance that the United States and Cuba will establish normal relations in the near future?

[Answer] Well, Reagan is holding a "big stick." We cannot see how negotiations are possible in the near future. However, we are willing to reach an agreement.

[Question] What would be the basis for that agreement?

[Answer] First of all, the trade embargo on Cuba must be lifted.

[Question] What other demands would you make?

[Answer] We must not make any demands which would allow them to attack us later on. We have endured an embargo followed by acts of military aggression. First, unfair demands must be eliminated, then we can negotiate.

[Question] Negotiate, about what?

[Answer] About mutual respect.

[Question] On the anniversary of the party, Castro said that Cuban emigration was not finished, that it was only suspended. When will the floodgates open again?

[Answer] The United States has been carrying out a prolonged campaign describing its country as a real paradise. Many people who were not sufficiently enlightened got the idea of leaving the country.

[Question] Then what was the meaning of 120,000 Cubans abandoning the revolution?

[Answer] As stated by the press, it gives a negative impression of Cuba. But something which was not made clear is who left and for what reasons.

[Question] What do you mean?

[Answer] In Peru and in the United States, they saw what kind of people were involved.

Some people in our country were brought to believe that there was a paradise just 170 kilometers from here and that they would immediately find goods jobs.

[Question] Is it not true that members of the Miami Cuban colony visited Cuba?

[Answer] Unfortunately we did not prepare our people for that impact. This does not mean that we were not politically on the alert although this issue was not sufficiently discussed. We had to reach an agreement and we did not attach enough importance to some of the attitudes among our people. The most annoying thing was the arrogance of these people.

We described the 120,000 Cubans who left as antisocial elements. Possibly this should not apply to 20,000 or 30,000 of them. Some had relatives abroad and wanted to be reunited with them.

[Question] Then, not all of them were antisocial elements....

[Answer] Not all, but most of them. More than 100,000 were common criminals.

[Question] Many of those who emigrated said that they believe in what Fidel Castro says and they praised the achievements of the revolution but complained about surveillance in Cuba.

[Answer] It all depends what you understand by surveillance. Here, everybody defends the revolution. Those who entertain counterrevolutionary ideas do not have an easy time because the vast majority of the people are for the revolution.

[Question] Do you still have a counterrevolution even 22 years after the revolution?

[Answer] I think we do. It is impossible to make 10 million people think alike.

[Question] Fidel Castro's speech on the party anniversary was devoted, for the most part, to the achievements of the revolution. Didn't you make any mistakes?

[Answer] There were mistakes in the strategy, in the art of leadership. When idealistic views are put into practice they become matters of government. This led to serious mistakes. But we have often acknowledged our mistakes.

[Question] Last December you took measures to increase production--more money will go to those who produce more work. This means that the "new man" still does not exist in Cuba.

[Answer] We still have a long way to go. This is what I meant when I mentioned excessive idealism in our leadership action when, encouraged by the enthusiasm of our people, the country's development was assessed too subjectively.

The new man will appear out of combining rewards for work done and political education for the purpose of boosting production. These are the foundations of the communist distribution of wealth.

Until this happens, the new man will only exist in part. He will be constantly evolving and will finally appear as Athena sprang from the forehead of Zeus.

8796

CSO: 3010/464

VARIOUS COOPERATION AGREEMENTS DESCRIBED

Finnish Trade

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 7 Nov 81 p 4

[Text] The concluding statement for the VI Congress of the Joint Commission on Cuban-Finnish Economic and Industrial Cooperation was signed in Havana by Raul Taladrid, director for developed non-socialist nations of the State Committee on Economic Cooperation, and Pauli Opas, director for commerce of the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Relations.

The purpose of the meeting was to analyze the ways and means of developing and consolidating the economic relationship between the two nations, as well as to discuss the progress made thus far. It was noted also that Finland is an important consumer of Cuban sugar, and Cuba is a growing market for Finnish products and technology.

The Finnish delegation held meetings with Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister-president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, Ricardo Cabrisas, the foreign trade minister, and officials of various agencies. Also, representatives of Finnish firms accompanying the official delegation made contacts with various Cuban firms.

Guinea-Bissau Friendship

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 11 Nov 81 p 5

[Article by Roberto Correa Wilson]

[Text] Bissau, 10 Nov (PL)--The creation of the Cuban-Guinean Association, the building of Ernesto Che Guevara Plaza and the growing cooperation between the two nations are proof of the friendship between Cuba and Guinea Bissau. These expressions of solidarity were reiterated at the First Extraordinary Congress of the African Party of the Independence of Guinea Bissau (PAIGC), where about 400 delegates and guests supported with fervent applause the words of President Joao Bernardo Vieira, who made mention of the aid his nation has received from Cuba.

PAIGC sources said that these actions show homage to the many internationalist Cuban fighters who, along with Amilcar Cabral and other Guinean fighters, con-

contributed to the independence of this West African nation. Since the gaining of independence the cooperation between Cuba and Guinea-Bissau has acquired a multilateral character beginning with the training of Guinean specialists in Havana and ending with the direct help of hundreds of Cuban technicians here. As an example of cooperation the authorities cite the work done by the Cuban physicians who provided 40 percent of the medical service performed in hospitals during 1980.

Young Cubans specially trained for education programs are working on improving the education plans and on expanding these plans. They are aiding also in the expansion of the fishing industry. Guinea-Bissau has enormous unexploited fishing resources.

Caribbean Aid

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 11 Nov 81 p 5

[Text] Georgetown, 10 Nov (PL)--Cuba will improve its relations of cooperation and mutual assistance with Caribbean nations, according to a statement to the press made by Ricardo Alarcon, the Cuban vice minister of foreign affairs. Alarcon heads a Cuban delegation touring the Caribbean; after Guyana he will go to Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada and Santa Lucia.

Responding to a question on the decision of the Jamaican Government to break diplomatic relations with Cuba, Alarcon said that this does not affect the bonds of friendship which link Cuba with the other Caribbean nations. He added that the short time of 24 hours and the ultimatum in the note released just before the break by the Jamaican administration under Edward Seaga indicate that the decision to suspend relations had been made some time before.

Alarcon referred also to the prohibition by the Dominican Republic against acceptance by Dominican students of scholarships offered by the Cuban Government; he said that Cuba feels sorry for these young people, because a form of cooperation among the neighboring Caribbean nations is being impeded.

Lastly Alarcon reiterated Cuba's support for Guyana's territorial integrity against Venezuela's claim to five-eighths of Guyana's territory.

11,989

CSO: 3010/393

REPORTAGE ON MINREX' ALARCON'S WEST INDIES TOUR

Visit to Grenada

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 18 Nov 81 p 5

[Article by Alexis Shelton]

[Text] Saint George, Grenada—The establishment of Cuban and Suriname diplomatic missions, in residence and at embassy level in both countries, was announced here today by Cuban Vice Minister of Foreign Relations Ricardo Alarcon, who is visiting Grenada as part of a tour he is making of different Caribbean countries.

Grenada is the third country Alarcon has visited on a trip the fundamental object of which is to cement closer relations, exchange information and allow both parties to familiarize themselves with mutual points of view on various international issues of current concern to the world.

The tour, described by the Cuban official himself as eminently satisfactory, has made possible the realization of a profitable exchange of ideas which, there can be no doubt, will benefit Cuban relations with the countries he has visited.

In reply to a question by GRANMA, Alarcon emphasized: "To date the results of the trip can be described as optimally satisfactory since we have successfully achieved the chief objectives for which this tour was designed."

In Grenada the Cuban delegation, headed by Alarcon, engaged in an extensive and fraternal conversation with Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and Vice Prime Minister Bernard Coard.

Results of Tour

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 21 Nov 81 p 6

[Text] Castries, 20 Nov (PL)—Cuban Vice Minister of Foreign Relations Ricardo Alarcon stressed the fruitful nature of his tour of the Caribbean, which he ended here where he conversed with St. Lucian Prime Minister Winston Cenac.

Alarcon was, moreover, received by Ministers of Foreign Relations Peter Josie and of Communications and Labor Remy Lesmond and the permanent secretariat of the Ministry of Education.

At his press conference the visitor stressed the atmosphere of cordiality that reigned in the conversations and reported that topics relating to bilateral relations between Cuba and St. Lucia and ways of increasing them were discussed as well as those involving bilateral trade.

After noting the fruitful nature of his tour, which also included visits to Guyana, Suriname, Grenada and Barbados, Alarcon emphasized that this is the first time a Cuban delegation has come to St. Lucia.

He added that he also discussed various aspects of the situation in the Caribbean with government leaders of this small island and development of the scholarship program for St. Lucian students in Cuba.

As regards Barbados, where he was received by Minister of Foreign Affairs Luis Tull, he said that their conversations took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere and that they fundamentally dealt with relations between the two countries.

In Guyana, the first stop of his tour, Alarcon noted that Cuba would continue to increase its cooperation and mutual assistance relations with the Caribbean countries, those that will not be affected — he made it clear — by the Jamaican Government's recent unilateral decision to put an end to its relations with Havana.

In Suriname the Cuban official conversed with President Henk Chin A Sen, Minister of Foreign Affairs Harvey Naarendorp and Col Deyse Boterse, that nation's chief of policy making.

As a result of this visit, an agreement for the establishment of Suriname and Cuban diplomatic missions in the respective countries was signed and the bases for an agreement in the domain of trade and economic collaboration were discussed.

In Grenada the Cuban delegation headed by Alarcon was received by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and Vice Prime Minister Bernard Coard with whom, Alarcon said, he had an extensive and fraternal dialogue.

11,466
CSO: 3010/532

REPORTAGE ON NAVAL ACADEMY ENGINEERING STUDENTS

Havana MAR Y PESCA in Spanish Sep 81 pp 8-13

[Article by Jorge Julio Gonzalez]

[Text] That is now my life line. And although I do not come from a seafaring family, I began to be interested in the history of the great navigators, to dream of adventures, read Hemingway, etc. One day, while I was at my village high school, circulars arrived inviting people to enter the Fishing Institute. And at that point my future was decided. In 4 years I became an intermediate technician in navigation. But that was not enough for me. I said to myself: "Juan Carlos, you will be an engineer. You must be capable of navigating the largest and most complex ship on the ocean, and take it to any point on the planet." And here I am, in the Naval Academy of the Revolutionary Navy [MGR].

I now have only one examination to pass to finish the second year of the maritime navigation course for the fishing industry. This makes me doubly content, for, once the course is finished, I shall have my first practice voyage in a ship of the Cuban Fishing Fleet [FCP]. It is not that I have never navigated, for in the first year of the course I sailed in the "Viet Nam Heroico," one of the three training ships belonging to the academy. As a matter of fact, this training practice is the dream of all midshipmen of the center. Each of us knows and eagerly hopes to have an opportunity to spend time at each of the work stations on board the ship, work in the land-based workshops, etc. For example, in the first 3 years of study, the navigators have 17 weeks of training practice; in the 4th year they have 12 weeks of production and maintenance training; and, in the 5th, 15 weeks of command training in which they duplicate the functions of the officers of respective specialties. In general, students whose career will be in the fishing sector receive from 40 to 60 weeks of professional training.

However, no one should think it is easy to become a qualified and full-fledged seaman. To anyone wanting to enter the naval academy I would give the following advice: "Come equipped with a will of steel." There is no doubt that will has always been the secret of my scholastic progress. For 2 years I received 5 in all my tests. How did I do so? I make it a practice to get as well organized as possible. My method consists of paying great attention in the classroom, using my self-study time to the maximum and consistently preparing for the seminars. Moreover, I do an abundance of supplementary reading; and I do not consider that one learns only from the classroom material.

However, with all this my life does not follow a set pattern; nor do I believe myself an infallible pupil. I shall give another example: Most of my classmates here practice judo or karate and, therefore, have no problems with personal defense. That is not my case; I had never had an opportunity to train sufficiently in that area. Even as a child, I never fought with anyone. Nevertheless, I had to undergo personal defense tests. I was really in a jam. Then I made an arrangement with a fellow classmate who is very good in karate and began to train every day from 2200 to 2400 hours. It was a great sacrifice. But, in the end, I was also able to receive 5 in personal defense. And with congratulations.

II

There is also no fisherman in my case. And I wanted to be one. In the beginning, I said to my mother: "I am going to be a fisherman." "Fisherman?" she answered, insulted. The "old man," in turn, alleged that seafaring people were very adventuresome and little attached to the home. Shortly thereafter, I explained in great detail the reasons for my choice and ended up convincing them. Today's fisherman--the one to whom I am referring--is a far cry from the traditional image of misery and crude work my parents had.

First, I liked the sea and fishing (although a bad fisherman, I still liked fishing) and electronics. How, then, could I combine those interests? Last year, request for admission forms came to the Pre Saul Delgado school in Vedado when I was finishing my last course. They offered me a career in one of three sectors: navy, merchant marine and fishing. I preferred the last. However, classes had not ended, and I had not had a medical checkup, passed the psychological tests, etc. One day I read on the bulletin board: Jose Cambas Leon, accepted in the electroradionavigational curriculum.

I am now finishing my last year of engineering and feel very happy about my decision. The naval academy itself is a great stimulus. This is one of the country's most important educational projects. In its final stage, in 1984, it will have an area of about 100,000 square meters. At present, it is only 30 percent completed and we already have a magnificent dining room and an excellent medical facility. The giant is growing every day. And I am sure that before finishing my studies I shall be able to enjoy the innumerable resources at the institution's disposal.

Specializations Offered by Naval Academy to Fishing Fleets

Maritime Navigator

Trains officers with the qualification of navigational engineer, prepared to occupy high positions both on the most modern ships of the National Fishing Fleet [FPN] and in land-based installations.

Electroradionavigator

Trains officers with the qualification of engineers, authorized to occupy appropriate posts both on the ships of our fishing fleet and in land-based installations.

Exploitation of Energy Installations

Prepares officers at the mechanical engineering level, capable of administering the exploitation of energy installations on the FPC's higher powered ships.

Electricity

Trains officers with the qualification of electromechanical engineers, prepared to occupy pertinent positions on the fishing boats or in the specialized workshops of the MIP [Ministry of the Fishing Industry].

III

I was born in Caibarien, a village of fishermen. Perhaps this somewhat explains why I am studying electromechanical engineering with the intention of joining the fishing fleet. But this does not explain everything, since the only maritime experience I had before beginning this course at the naval academy was the 6 years I spent traveling from the prep school, Vanguardia de La Habana, on the Isle of Youth, to "Greater Cuba." I should also mention that I have three fishermen brothers. And if perhaps this means anything, my name is Marino--Antonio Marino Diaz.

I am very fond of basketball. I should like to see sports arenas built to give free rein to my enthusiasm. But if that happens, I shall have problems when it comes time to be faithful to the course in question. For there at the naval academy there is much to choose from in the way of sports. The plan now being devised contemplates--among other projects--two Olympic-size swimming pools, a diving area, volleyball, soccer and handball court and grounds, a track for field events, a grass-type hockey field, a low-ceiling gymnasium for karate, wrestling, gymnastics, judo, weight-lifting and various sports played with a ball. And a nautical base with a channel for rowing, sailing and canoeing. However, all that is in its infancy and the academy boasts the title of champion of the Military Training Center [CEM] games and is ranked ninth in the National University games.

There are other plans for the cultural sector: a cinema is to be built for an audience of 1,000 and an amphitheater accommodating 3,500. In addition, we will have a large cultural club for a wide variety of events.

Nevertheless, it must not be thought that these perspectives will turn me away from my principal objective. Here, studies require more dedication than at the prep school. However, one creates one's own discipline which helps one to become a better student and use one's time to the best advantage while reserving the remainder for recreation and relaxation.

This first year, my curriculum includes certain basic studies: chemistry, physics, computation, mathematics, technical drawing, etc. It is only in the third year that we shall begin studies specifically related to the chosen field. I should like for that moment to arrive, although I also think it necessary to acquire the basic knowledge.

Requirements to Enter the MCR Naval Academy

Be 17 to 21 years of age.

Be single.

Be physically able to pursue studies at military training centers.

Possess political moral qualities compatible with our revolutionary principles.

Have completed the upper median grade (pre-university) or be graduated from the Andres Gonzalez Lines Fishing Institute.

Aspiring students must have an accumulated grade point average of at least 88.

Those interested must present themselves at the Military Patriotic Society of their province to receive supplementary information. They may also channel their request through the MIP representative visiting their school or else through the MIP qualifying directorate.

IV

I always wanted to study engineering; thus, when I finished the Fishing Institute courses last year, I saw doors opened to satisfy my desire. Now I would have the opportunity to continue my studies at the naval academy. And 17 of my classmates with the same opinion came with me.

At first glance, the time appears very long: 4 years at the institute and now 5 of classes. But I took stock of myself: In Cuba the time will arrive when average technicians will have to become better. I shall finish my mechanical engineering studies at the age of 24, still very young. After that, there will be sufficient time to invest my knowledge in whatever endeavor I wish.

My father is a mechanic, and I also like mechanics. The naval mechanic must have two things to his liking: mechanics and the sea. The mechanic who does not like his profession has no future in that specialty, although there are cases where that liking comes with practice. And the seaman who does not like the sea is "bored to death." Machines are the heart of the ship. It is a thrilling world where there is great responsibility. For example, any one of us can become head machinist on a supertugboat.

This year at the academy they are finishing the construction of two colleges: one for mechanics and one for electricity. I am earnestly hoping for the installation of motor laboratories, which will greatly help us to acquire knowledge of that specialty. This will be splendid, since the academy is designed to provide courses in the most modern technology. To achieve this objective, there are plans to build about 80 specialized classrooms and 50 general classrooms. In addition, 75 laboratories of all types and 3 workshops are being built where instruction will be combined with production. Moreover, we shall have about 15 conference rooms, an information center and a planetarium for the study of astronomy.

It should be pointed out that in the near future the institution will be able to accommodate more than 3,000 students. There are 15 specialties from which to choose: 7 for the navy, 4 for the merchant marine and the other 4 for the fishing industry. Mine is one of the latter two. And I shall be here all these years, watching this colossus grow and giving my best attention to my studies. For one thing is as certain as my name is Enrique: I shall become an engineer at the naval academy!

College of Directed Studies

The MGR Naval Academy also has a college of directed studies which, from January on, will include specialized programs for fishing fleet personnel. Through these directed courses our officers with an intermediate level of training can reach a higher level, while a system of external teaching--which provides students with a program of courses and an examination schedule--makes it possible for individuals with basic secondary training to train as an intermediate technician in machinery and deck specialties. And those who aspire to the category of qualified workmen will also be able to do so through this system.

Moreover, the MGR Naval Academy is the only institution in the country authorized to confer internationally recognized professional degrees on officers of this maritime branch in general.

To this end, the naval academy confers three levels of degrees through examinations. The third level covers those of first mate and naval machinist; the second, first officer and second machinist; and the first level, the ranks of captain and first naval mechanic.

8568

CSO; 3010/461

FARM SECTOR TOBACCO CAMPAIGN EXPLAINED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 23 Nov 81 p 5

[Interview with Pedro Gonzalez Govin, chief of the Tobacco Department of the national ANAP Secretariat for Production, by Ariel Rojas; place and date not given]

[Text] The planting quota is bigger than for the last harvest and it is anticipated that previous season yields will at least be equaled or surpassed.

Approximately 70 percent of Cuban tobacco production comes under the farm sector, including the Farm and Livestock Production Cooperatives (CPA). During the last season small farmers and the CPA harvested 3,595 caballerias [1 caballeria = 33.2 acres], thereby filling the plan quota by 102 percent.

Farm sector sales to the state during the last harvest came to 818,000 quintals, or 35.6 percent more than the quota, and yields were on the order of 227.6 quintals per caballeria. It was indeed a good harvest.

[Question] How are the farmers facing up to the current season? Will this year's planting quota exceed the amount harvested last season?

[Answer] At least the planting quota we have — 3,536 caballerias — is bigger than last year's plan, which was exceeded by 85 caballerias. Provinces like Sancti Spiritus and Pinar del Rio show conspicuous increases. Between the two of them they have increased by over 60 caballerias, although the Pinar del Rio farmers still have the largest volume of plantings with 2,250 caballerias, according to plan.

[Question] Yields last year amounted to almost 228 quintals per caballeria. Do they propose to surpass that figure this season?

[Answer] The farmers and the CPA, who account for over 20 percent of the sector, have committed themselves to achieving at least the yields obtained last season, but they are making an all-out effort to surpass them. This is not easy when we take into account the fact that that was a good season. But the soil has been improved, the quota has been assigned on time, we have had no problems as concerns plant losses, which were considerable last year, positive experiences in the

control and prevention of the mosaic disease have been accumulated and there is great readiness among the farmers to tackle this campaign, encouraged as they are by the economic results of the last harvest.

[Question] How is the implementation of the scheduling of the campaign coming along?

[Answer] There have been delays in the planting of seed beds, chiefly due to the rains at the end of September and in early October and some insurance problems. Not all the polyethylene needed for the irrigation of the seed planned under this system was arranged for. This delay was made up during the second third of November. As for the plantings, they were begun in the last third of October, basically in Pinar del Rio and the central provinces, which have the bulk of the sector's tobacco-growing areas. Delays in the irrigation of the seed beds and rains in the central provinces caused some imbalance in the planting schedule planned for October and early November. However, all the provinces are working to get back on schedule by the end of this month.

[Question] What might the immediate tasks be?

[Answer] First, to complete the seed-bed plan, maintain strict control over cultivation operations, irrigation and the spraying of plants. This is imperative. Second, to improve preparation of the soil for the purpose of making maximal use of the existing plant stock and complete the planting schedule for November and December, not to neglect the application of measures to combat the mosaic disease on the plantations and to speed up construction projects and repairs planned for the curing of the leaves this season. One very important point must be the sensible use of resources, construction projects as well as farm expenditures, especially fertilizers. We must take into account the fact that the latter is an important resource that costs the country hard currency and we must therefore be very strict in our application of same, to the extent this resource may be available, although in connection with this we are going to be subject to some limitations.

[question] Anything else?

[Answer] Our farmers, and among them the tobacco growers, will respond to the statements made by our commander-in-chief on the 24th of last month with a good harvest in this new campaign, along with the readiness to defend our soil at any cost.

11,466

CSO: 3010/528

NEED FOR INCREASED GRINDING EFFICIENCY NOTED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 1 Dec 81 p 1

[Article by Juan Varela Perez]

[Text] Utilization of the full capacities [of the mills] has been one of the key elements in achieving complete efficiency in the sugar industry.

Grinding at maximal, peak capacity, without showy overfulfillments of quota, is the ideal way to see to it that the sugar-grinding season takes place as scheduled and that the cane is processed when it has reached its optimal growth.

In one or two cases there have been unfavorable experiences that provide us with valuable precedents. Every mill needs a grinding schedule. We reiterate this important fact for various reasons: 1. over the past few years, despite good mean efficiency rates, many mills have been grinding poorly; 2. enterprises that have attempted to process larger volumes of cane than was advisable and were then later, in the end, left without any raw material at the prime time when it was at peak maturity; 3. grinding the specified volume in terms of the potential norm guarantees that there will be cane residue to feed the furnaces and avoid wasting oil or firewood.

From an overall standpoint, sugar production is a difficult process. Hence the move toward agroindustrial complexes so that a single command can avoid errors attributable to organization or lack of coordination.

From the moment of harvesting on, "dead periods" at the beginning and end of the week must be avoided. In previous seasons this negative situation has been one of our greatest concerns. If the proper conditions are created, it will be impossible for cane-cutting volumes to drop from one day to the next.

We may say that the source of efficiency, its major basis, its support and maintenance, is a smooth, harmonious, high-volume daily grinding process, inasmuch as full capacity permits.

Fortunately, those sudden, intensive grinding periods, prepared for beforehand, which one day provoke a new high in the amount of cane run through the mills and in the following days result in an insignificant, low volume of production, have disappeared. And one does not have to be very expert or superknowledgeable in the business of sugar production to realize the harm that results from this.

It is no accident that, among the guidelines expressed by our commander-in-chief in summing up the results of the 16th Sugar Union Congress, with reference to the industry, grinding at maximal, peak capacity occupied first place.

Completing the grinding season within the scheduled time, mill by mill, must receive preferential attention. We cannot forget that the yield obtained in the fields is a result produced by grinding given amounts of cane with different yields at different times. The more cane that is ground when the yield is high, the greater its mean value will be.

If cane cutters follow the established order when going through the fields, it will be possible to avoid lapses in the supply. Actual attendance in the fields — no less than 80 percent — will guarantee that the campaign for high productivity, that is, at the level of the national media, is conducted from advantageous positions.

High, stable milling volumes will be ensured if none of the links in the chain is altered. We must add the influence of the combine operators, loaders and transporters to that of the cane cutters. The chiefs of the collectives that participate in the harvest hold in their hands a decisive share in this undertaking.

We may say that the rate of processing helps to organize the cutting operation by applying pressure on it and the industry has demonstrated that it is capable of receiving and processing everything it receives.

The first reports on the quality of the raw material and the purity of the juice are encouraging. Given the importance of this issue, we will dwell on it again and on what having the cane reach the mills clean and fresh means to mill management.

11,466
CSO: 3010/528

OTERO, CARDENAS HONORED BY MEXICAN MAGAZINE

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 20 Nov 81 p 4

[Article by Jorge Timosi]

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Nov (PL)—It was learned today that two Cuban writers, Lisandro Otero and Eleana Cardenas, and one Argentine, Cesar Fernandez Moreno, have won the literary prize competition organized by the Mexican magazine, PLURAL.

This is the second time this prize has been awarded by the prestigious cultural review, a publication of the big Mexican newspaper, EXCELSIOR.

The prizes consist of a certificate, \$2,000 in Mexican pesos and publication in PLURAL, which is managed by the Mexican writer, Jaime Labastida.

Argentine writer Cesar Fernandez Moreno received the poetry prize for his work, "Written with a Pencil I Found in Havana."

Fernandez Moreno has lived in the Cuban capital as a representative of UNESCO and at present lives in Paris.

Lisandro Otero, the current editorial director of CASA DE LAS AMERICAS, won the prize for short story writing with his work, "Class Struggle," much praised by the jury and the organizers.

The Cuban architect and member of the Hermanos Saiz Brigade, Eleana Cardenas, won the prize for essay writing with her title, "In Jose Marti: Two Aspects of the Search for Latin-American Cultural Identity."

Among those honored, who are also to be published in PLURAL, are in addition other Cuban writers like poetess Minerva Salado, essayist Eliseo Alberto Diego and short story writer Raul Gonzalez de Cascorro.

Also among those honored are several Argentine authors, most of whom live outside their country, like Pedro Orgambide and Daniel Mavoro.

Sergio Elizondo, a chicano, also received honorable mention in essay writing.

The PLURAL prize was instituted last year and, according to its organizers, the second and current competition will include candidates from practically all the countries of Latin America and the number of nominations will triple.

RAT CONTROL PROGRAM UNDER WAY IN URBAN AREAS

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 5 Nov 81 p 4

[Article by Jose A.de la Osa]

[Text] The intensive phase of the National Campaign for the Control of Rats and Mice begun on Monday, 26 October, in the urban areas of our country continues to develop normally, with the decisive help of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR]. Work has also been going forward on the eradication of rats along the banks of rivers, ditches, and sewers.

The CDR's have taken charge of the distribution to each home of a can of Antirrat, an effective rodent poison which may cause the death of up to 10 rodents, according to research that has been carried out.

It is important to make daily checks of the receptacles in which the portions of Antirrat have been placed in order to continue replacing the quantities consumed by the destructive rodents.

The CDR's have enough Antirrat to replace the total quantity consumed by the rodents every 5 days, provided that the presence of rats and mice in their holes is suspected.

As has been reported, when the portions of Antirrat crumble away in the course of handling, the remaining "powder" should also be put on saucers which have been set out as bait, because the product does not lose its effectiveness when it crumbles.

The domestic or field mouse has a radius of activity of 3 to 10 meters. Rats cover up to 30 or 45 meters from their holes. Since the movements of each species of rodent normally take place within these limits, it is important to follow their tracks to place the poisoned bait properly.

Apart from the effectiveness of this rodent poison, the Ministry of Public Health emphasizes that the fight against rodents will be successful to the extent that measures of permanent hygiene are taken and the food sources and holes of these pests are systematically eliminated by means of intensive cleanup operations.

5170

CSO: 3010/445

BRIEFS

POULTRY PRODUCTION INCREASE—Poultry meat production attained by poultry farm workers rose to 83,414 metric tons (live weight) as of the end of October, which meant completion of 105 percent of the plan quota up to that time. This volume of production completed meant an 11.9-percent increase in comparison with the figure obtained through the same date last year. Poultry farmers achieved an [average] weight of 1.36 kg per chicken for 100 percent of the plan quota, although the chickens gained 20 grams more in weight in comparison with the actual figure for 1980. With regard to conversion, that is, the cost of feed and the meat produced (live weight), the data indicate that it took 2.85 kg of feed for each kilogram of meat. This meant a cost of 20 grams more feed than allowed for in the plan, although they succeeded in reducing the amount of feed invested in each kilogram of meat by 70 grams as compared with the figure obtained for the same period last year. The overachievement of the quota up to October represents 4,187.6 tons of meat and an increase of 8,898 tons over what was produced during the same period last year. [Text] [Havana GRANMA in Spanish 14 Nov 81 p 1]
11466

CSO: 3010/528

JUNTA COORDINATOR DANIEL ORTEGA INTERVIEWED

Rome IL TEMPO in Italian 7 Dec 81 pp 1, 17

/Interview with Daniel Ortega, leader of the Nicaraguan government junta, by IL TEMPO Special Correspondent Giorgio Torchia, in Managua, on 6 December 1981: "Sandinist 'Young Lions'" 'No' to Democratic Pluralism"--"Our revolutionary process is irreversible and is not based on an agreement with the bourgeoisie."/

/Text/ Managua, 6 December--For Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Sandinist government junta and in practice president of Nicaragua, there is no military solution for the problem of El Salvador. The Americans must resign themselves to dealing with the guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti Liberation Front and Ortega re-proposes the offer of negotiations made at the latest UN Assembly. As for Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega maintains that it is experiencing a revolutionary process that is irreversible and unique. A pluralist society is acceptable to the extent that it reconciles itself to the aims of the Sandinist revolution. The country is threatened by American imperialism, which is planning further conspiracies, both inside and outside the country, and this brings about a state of emergency that requires drastic measures for the protection of revolutionary legality.

Berlinguer, who recently visited the country, was not in agreement and least of all enthusiastic.

These essentially are the positions that Daniel Ortega emphasized in an interview that he granted us. And the most important thing that emerged from a conversation that was not devoid of polemics is the refusal of the leader of the Sandinist regime to admit the existence of an agreement with the bourgeoisie, one that proved to be a determinant factor in the aim to overthrow Somoza, as a guarantee that Nicaragua would be a country with a pluralist democracy of the type that the West conceives. Daniel Ortega does not affirm a plan for a "people's democracy" like the one in Cuba or in East Europe, but compatibility between pluralism and a totalitarian bent in Sandinism was not convincingly explained during the conversation.

Thirty-four year old Daniel Ortega is a personage who is a good example of the completely individual characteristics of the Sandinist phenomenon. The first

outstanding factor is age. As in the case of the great majority of the nine guerrilla commanders who constitute a sort of politburo that is the real holder of power in Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega belongs to a generation in their 30's. His brother, Humberto, just a little younger, shares top-level responsibility with him. He is minister of defense and commander of the "Sandinist People's Army," which also includes the militia--that is, more than 100,000 men in military service.

The Ortega brothers and their comrades of the old guerrilla "command" are the red chicks of the brood of the student leaders of the 1950's that were nurtured by Carlos Fonseca, founder of the Sandinist Front and martyr of the revolution. Ortega inspires sympathy. He has nothing in common with the bureaucratic leadership classes of the communist parties of East Europe that are punctuated with gloomy personalities that are devoid of any charm. It is also difficult to find points of contact with the comrades of West Europe. And it is not surprising that Berlinguer felt uncomfortable here where he received a cool welcome. And the military characteristics of Sandinism, stressed to the point of irritation, have nothing in common with the militarism of Soviet marshals. Also, the Cuban model in this case is very much in evidence--including the risks of degeneration. Sandinism greatly resembles early Castroism. And, as in the case of Castroism, it brings forth a mixture of nationalism, sometimes with fascist-like coloration, of guerrilla youthfulness and harsh anti-North Americanism--all drowned in a mixed sauce of Marxism-Leninism.

Daniel Ortega smiles, but does not laugh. He is fairly tall and slender, has a youthful face that is intercepted by a mustache and has a mole on his right cheek. He wears an olive green uniform and wears a black beret. At his right side there is a big pistol. He speaks while seated on a sofa under two photographs of Carlos Fonseca. He strives for a serious appearance, almost in order to show the weight of the responsibilities that fall on his shoulders.

A Post-War Situation

He begins by maintaining that the threats made by Haig against Cuba and Nicaragua must be taken seriously. He says that the Americans are indeed up to something and this, in his opinion, is confirmed by the apprehension in congress that was caused by the policy of the Reagan administration. Daniel Ortega sees a relationship between outside threats and those that weigh on the revolutionary process within the country, as a result of which a special emergency law was passed in September. It was in conformity with this law that exponents of the COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise], the confederation of businessmen and of the so-called Nicaraguan Communist Party, which in reality "is a 'group-like' organization of pro-Chinese tendency, were arrested."

Ortega maintains that "in the first place it must be understood that Nicaragua is beginning to overcome the devastation caused by the war against dictator Somoza. Our economy was completely ruined. Thousands of our people died and it is a question of rebuilding the country. It would be necessary to return to the post-World War II period. Making the proper comparisons, we could say that Nicaragua is experiencing an analogous circumstance. This parallel, while bold, serves to

explain the application of exceptional laws; and this consequently requires a state of economic-social emergency which, without obstructing freedom of the press and political pluralism, as well as the joint economy, imposes respect for revolutionary laws."

According to Ortega, the measures that have been taken and those that will be adopted will answer precisely to the dual necessity of dealing with the country's economic crisis and the need of safeguarding the present revolutionary experiment. "If we encounter workers who are controlled by extremist groups that are defined as communist and that urge the occupation of factories, we must intervene, because otherwise the flexibility of the revolution will be interpreted as weakness and this would jeopardize the future of the joint economy plan and freedom of the press and thus Nicaragua's political pluralism."

Daniel Ortega, who speaks in a low voice and is absorbed, pauses briefly and continues as follows: "The same may be said for the rightist position when some business administrators, instead of concentrating on an effort to promote production, instead of appreciating the fact that the revolutionary government has allotted 80 percent of its financing to them and allotted only 20 percent to the public sector, instead of appreciating that the revolutionary government causes more than 60 percent of the currency to be available to the private sector, have ruthlessly launched against the revolutionary process. Thus the flexibility that the revolution manifested at first is now giving rise to two trends: leftist extremism and rightist extremism. Both endanger the revolutionary process and the possibility of rebuilding our country's economy."

Daniel Ortega explains the measures that have been adopted as the normal requirement of any democracy and refers to the example of Reagan in the matter of the air traffic controllers as an example of the observance of the laws of a country: "I do not believe that democracy means allowing everyone to do as he wishes." It must be remembered that, in the case of the businessmen who were arrested, the measure was triggered by a letter they sent to Daniel Ortega, himself, in which they denounced the involvement of the Sandinist Revolution.

But is there real pluralism in Nicaragua? According to Commander Daniel, yes-- "since various groups are active in Nicaragua that are hostile to the Sandinist Front and to the revolutionary government, such as the Democratic Conservative Party, the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, and the Social-Christian Party."

Then Daniel Ortega continues: "I believe that Nicaragua has a parliamentary system that is different from that of any other country in the world--thanks to the revolution's creation of the institution of the Council of State, which is equivalent to our parliament."

Daniel Ortega presents the Council of State as a sort of corporate institution, in which political parties, labor unions, businessmen, and social forces are represented. And he says that this institution does not have an equal "in other countries that are defined as democratic." We reply that the Council of State was deserted by the opposition parties that specifically denounced the totalitarian

characteristics of Sandinism. The Sandinist commander interprets this action as an attempt at pressure and he compares it with what occurs in other Latin American parliaments when some parties withdraw their representations from the assemblies for an indefinite period.

At this point the conversation centers on two points: Is there not a Sandinist Marxist-Leninist plan and is there not an attempt on its part to denounce the pluralist agreement that was subscribed to with the bourgeoisie on the eve of Somoza's fall? "We have insisted on saying that our revolution has its roots in its historical reality and in its development. We do not view Marxism as something demoniac, terrible, or dreadful. We believe that universal thinking has been enriched by various doctrines. And our revolution is influenced by universal thinking. And universal thinking is Christianity. Universal thinking is liberal economic theories. Universal thinking is Marxism. But all of these are only points of reference, points of experiment, for the purpose of finding our own answer."

From Karl Marx to Washington

This conversation contrasts with what the other Ortega, Humberto, said to the Sandinist army when he affirmed in no uncertain terms a Marxist-Leninist plan. And in support of this another of the convinced Sandinist men, Tomas Borge, maintains that it is necessary to have done with the bourgeoisie. Daniel Ortega admits that the Sandinists "in principle are not in agreement with the bourgeoisie" and that they are committed to a revolutionary process, the objective of which is "a change of mentality" of the Nicaraguan bourgeoisie, which must conform to the social postulates of the revolution. "We are striving for a change," he says, "and we are opposed to their way of thinking."

Daniel Ortega has trouble in reconciling the vision of a pluralist Nicaragua with a Marxist-Leninist plan. He believes that the words of his brother are orchestrated to the aims of a possible campaign of denigration. He vindicates the characteristics of Sandinism "without denying our respect and admiration for Karl Marx and Lenin and for the magnificent revolution that took place in Russia in 1917. We do not deny Lenin's contribution to universal thinking--just as we do not deny the contribution that the American revolution made to the American continent. Thinkers like Washington and Jefferson have had an enormous influence in Central America."

Daniel Ortega characterizes the agreement with the bourgeoisie that has been mentioned by the opposition as "a lie": "At no time has there been an agreement with the bourgeoisie. Instead there was a decision on the part of the Sandinist Front to develop a broad, unified, and flexible policy. The Sandinist Front invited Alfonso Robelo and Mrs. Violetta Chamorro to become members of the government junta--in order to strengthen national union and to concentrate all of the forces for the purpose of rebuilding the country at the side of Sandinism."

Proposals at the United Nations

In a rare moment of the conversation Daniel Ortega shows feeling and says heatedly: "There never has been any agreement. There are many versions--arbitrarily

concocted. But I can assure you that there never has been any agreement." And Daniel Ortega dwells long at reconstructing the political negotiations of the days that preceded the fall of Somoza and the American pressures that were rejected by the Revolutionary Junta. Thus, no San Jose or Punta Arena agreement. The bourgeois forces were essentially coopted into the government, but they have no legal claim to being a part of the government.

The conversation shifts to topics of international policy, with their obvious effects on Nicaragua. The Sandinist commander does not deny the influence that Castroism exerts on his movement, but insists on emphasizing the historical and environmental differences of the two revolutions.

With respect to relations with the Soviet bloc, he believes that there is a political trend to try to simplify the choices of countries. "It is the same fatalism according to which, when there is a conflict, at least in the Central American or Latin-American area, causes people to come to the conclusion that it must be an East-West conflict." According to Ortega, this is the result of a colonial mentality according to which whatever occurs in Central America must be the effect or the repetition of the experience of others. With respect to El Salvador, the Sandinist commander is categorical. It is not true, "it's an enormous lie" that the radio of the guerrillas, "Venceremos" ("We Will Win"), broadcasts from Nicaraguan territory. He adds: "We have been the bearers of specific peace proposals to the UN Assembly--proposals that were formulated by the Salvadoran revolutionaries--to initiate peace talks without any kind of conditions. And that is the way out for the crisis. We believe that we can, and must, find a real solution through talks, through a dialog, for the purpose of finding points in common and making it possible to stabilize the situation in San Salvador and as a consequence to aid in improving the stability of the region."

According to Ortega, the United States instead is trying to find a military solution, in spite of the failure of its Vietnam veteran experts. It is probably searching for pretexts to intervene militarily in Cuba, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. Daniel Ortega referred to a secret mission that recently made a visit to West Europe to obtain agreement on a "hard line" against the Sandinists and their allies. It wants a military solution and is playing a tough game with the stability of Central America and the world."

And with regard to Berlinguer? A smile appears behind his mustache. "I believe that he expressed some different points of view upon his arrival in Rome. But I do not know what they are. There are many points of agreement and of difference. However, we do not know how Berlinguer interpreted the arrest of the members of the so-called Nicaraguan Communist Party. According to some information sources, he allegedly said that he did not think our action was prudent. If he said this, it is his point of view. We respect it; but we have our own, and that is the one that we apply."

The conversation ends. We leave Daniel Ortega with the uncertainties, the perplexities, and the questions that we had observed during a visit to Cuba. Will Sandinism turn out the same as Castroism? It would merit a different fate. As, after all, would Castro, himself. But Daniel Ortega is following in the footsteps of Fidel more than he is willing to admit--even to himself.

STATE COUNCIL AMENDS PUBLIC SECURITY LAW

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Nov 81 p 4

[Text] Responding to a wave of concern and opinion, but above all, in furtherance of the human rights cause, which the Government of National Reconstruction is supporting, the Council of State at its last session approved reforms in the Law of Criminal Procedures for the Preservation of Order and Public Security.

The reform provides for the consolidation in one decree of all procedures used in prosecuting crimes committed against the Law for the Preservation of Order and Public Security, presently scattered among several statutes.

In addition, the reform establishes broader probation provisions which offer greater guarantees to the accused and in general provide better administration of justice.

Summary of Reforms

The primary and greatest advantage is the consolidation of procedures that are at present dispersed among Decrees Nos 5, 34, 148, and 195. Also, there is a secondary role as guarantor, which provides greater possibilities of defense for the prisoner, thus contributing to the advancement of human rights in this country by various means, among them:

The time period for answering a complaint is lengthened from 48 hours to 2 days. Technically, this gives greater advantage to the prisoner; for example in judicial terms if a prisoner is served at 10:00 am, the first 24 hours are up at 10:00 am the following day.

But if one counts by days instead of hours--days are counted from midnight to midnight--several important hours are gained. For example, if service of process is at 10:00 am, the first day will not terminate until midnight of the second day, according to Article 26 of the Introductory Title of the Civil Code.

At the same time, the reform lengthens the trial period from 3 days without possibility of extension to 10 days, with an extension provision of 5 days more, that is, two weeks all told. This gives the accused more time to prove his innocence.

In another reform, the time for handing down sentences is lengthened from 48 hours to 4 days--see the difference between counting by hours and days above--when there has been an arrest, and to 10 days when there has been no arrest.

This extension to 4 days gives more time to the judge to hand down a better sentence, providing as it does for more complete study of the case.

Also, the appeal period is lengthened from 48 hours to 5 days, according to Article 451 of the Civil Procedures Code.

Appeals

Similarly, the Court of Appeals does not have to render a decision in 3 days but may simply follow normal or ordinary processes: acceptance of the appeal, summons, amendment to appeal, complaint, answer to complaint, summons for sentencing, and the sentence (over two weeks).

As is obvious, the greater time given the Court of Appeals permits more study of the case and greater latitude for the defense.

Other Reforms

Two appreciable reforms in the law appear in Article 5, which says: "The judges and courts may, at the request of the prosecutor, order the arrest or probation of the accused at any point in the process.

"If bond is requested, it will be decided in accordance with a determination of the Office of the Attorney General."

The commission that reviewed this measure was constituted by the Interior and Justice Ministries and headed by Pedro Alvaro Arguello.

Approval of Exclusive Employment Law Postponed

Meanwhile, the Council of State suspended discussion on the Civil Service Attorneys Exclusive Employment Law in consideration of a series of adverse messages, protests, and opinions.

The bill, presented by the Government Junta for National Reconstruction, states that all professional civil servants must be employed to the exclusion of other employment to enable them to offer better service to the public.

Nevertheless, the Commission on Justice, headed by Federico Lopez, stated that it had arrived at the conclusion that it was necessary to guarantee the exclusive service of the civil service attorneys for the exercise of their functions or responsibilities, and in addition it was necessary to ensure that public office would be held in the exclusive interest of the state and the nation, although it is necessary to study this further.

Plutarco Anduray Palma, a member of the Commission, expressed his dissent on the decision since "it violates the basic statutes."

Reform of the Tax Collection System

The Council of State approved the reform of the final part of the first article of Decree 356, which modifies the system of collecting the excise tax on matches.

This does not constitute a new tax or levy. On the contrary, any abuses should be reported.

The reform authorizes the match factory to collect the tax directly from the wholesaler instead of by the old system.

Meanwhile, it was agreed to approve a bill by the Government Junta of National Reconstruction which elevates Nueva Guinea, located in the Department of Zelaya, to the status of municipality.

The principal business and government center will be in the area known as La Colonia Nueva Guinea. At the same time, it was agreed that the local court of Muelle de los Bueyes will come under the jurisdiction of Nueva Guinea, whose name it will adopt on the effective date.

9015

CSO: 3010/457

NEW NATIONALITY LAW GOES INTO EFFECT 19 NOVEMBER

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 22 Nov 81 p 9

[Text] The new Nationality Law became fully effective in this country on 19 November, with its publication in the official newspaper, LA GACETA.

This important law, within the framework of the revolutionary context, provides that the following are citizens of Nicaragua:

Children of a Nicaraguan father or mother; those born on Nicaraguan territory, except the children of foreigners in the diplomatic service, as well as those born of foreign officials in the service of international organizations; infants found on Nicaraguan territory of unknown parents; and the children of foreign parents born on board Nicaraguan aircraft and ships, if they so request.

It adds that those foreigners who distinguish themselves by extraordinary merit in the service of the nation will be considered citizens, conferral of which will be accomplished by the Council of State at the request of the Governing Junta.

With regard to naturalization, it indicates that those who seek Nicaraguan citizenship may do so upon request after renouncing their previous nationality.

Those born abroad of fathers or mothers who were originally Nicaraguans within 10 years after attaining their majority or becoming emancipated.

Foreign spouses married to Nicaraguans after having resided for 3 years in Nicaragua.

Foreigners adopted by Nicaraguans who reside in Nicaragua or who become residents of Nicaragua after their adoption when the adopted person retains his nationality by reason of the law of his nation.

Finally, foreigners who render distinguished service to the nation after having obtained permanent residence.

The law indicates that Nicaraguans married to foreigners may retain their citizenship even though they acquire the nationality of the spouse by reason of the law of the spouse's nation as long as they do not expressly renounce that nationality.

It adds that the following will lose their Nicaraguan nationality:

Those convicted of treason by virtue of formal sentence; those who serve in the armed forces of a foreign country by violating an express prohibition of the government; and those who refuse to come to the defense of the nation in case of foreign invasion.

Finally, the law establishes that attainment of majority status or its equivalent is an essential requisite for deciding one's own nationality, and that the condition of being a Nicaraguan implies, among others, these requirements:

To serve and defend the nation, comply with the law, contribute to the development of the community, and contribute to the cost of government according to the law.

It adds also that foreigners who participated in the war of liberation or who lent their collaboration may acquire Nicaraguan citizenship after residing for three years in Nicaragua; after renouncing their previous nationality.

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